

THE D.C. GAZETTE

BULK RATE
U. S. Postage Paid
Washington, DC
Permit 43590

February 5, 1970

Vol. I Nr. 8

25¢



© 1970, SAWYER PRESS

some salt

BY SAM SMITH

EUGENE Jacobson runs a big laundry out on Blair Road. At least for the time being. How much longer Mr. Jacobson will be out on Blair Rd., or even in the laundry business, is very much in doubt.

Even more so than in 1963. In 1963 Mr. Jacobson was forced to move his plant to make way for a highway project. He had a second plant in Bladensburg, Md., which was able to keep his customers in clean shirts until his new Sterling Laundry could open on Blair Rd. He made the transition with the aid of hundreds of thousands of dollars borrowed from a bank and the Small Business Administration at interest rates as low as 3%. Mr. Jacobson recalls that he used to arrive at the plant at 4:30 a. m. and work 18 hours a day seven days a week while the new operation was getting on its feet.

Now seven years later, he's in full operation with 250 employees and 70 trucks. Many of Sterling's workers have been employed there for ten years or more, no doubt partially attracted by a plan that gives one-third of the company's before-tax profits to the staff.

Mr. Jacobson made one mistake, however. He relocated his plant in the path of the North Central Freeway. Of course, he didn't know it at the time. He was assured that he was secure from future asphalt juggernauts.

If Mr. Jacobson has to move again, it will probably be either out of the District or out of the laundry business. He no longer has the Bladensburg operation to take in the wash while the move is being made. He can no longer get interest rates as low as 3%. And the more than ten million dollars he would have to spend to construct a new plant here would not justify based on the profits of the laundry business.

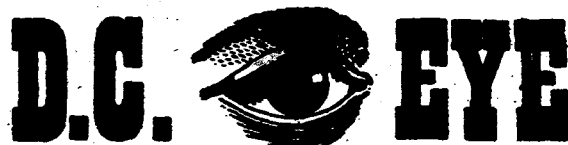
And Mr. Jacobson and Sterling Laundry won't be the only ones. There are 121 businesses in the path of the North Central, including two other cleaning establishments and Merkle Press which employs 200 persons. Also in the way are 223 homes with 1500 persons living in them.

Mr. Jacobson is being forced to move because of a lie. The lie is that building the North Central Freeway, along with other road projects being pressed by the D. C. Highway Dept. in cooperation with the Nixon Administration and the Congress, will alleviate Washington's traffic problems.

There is hardly a jot of evidence that building more super-roads into the city will do anything but induce more automobile traffic, thereby causing more congestion, more pollution and more of the economic and social misery that have accompanied almost every major urban freeway project over the past two decades.

There are plenty of theoretical explanations for this. Henry Bain of the Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies gave just one small example at the City Council's freeway hearings the other day. He pointed out that if you chart the amount of time people spend going to and from work each day, you find that while the resulting curve may vary from

(Please turn to page 6)



More cops. . .

BY July of this year, the total number of policemen in the District will top 8,000. That's about one cop per hundred residents. Some 5,000 of the policemen will be on the metropolitan force, the others are spread among the Capitol (600), White House (expected to jump to 800 if a pending bill goes through), Park police (400), police cadets and civilian employees.

The past year has shown that adding more police is not a particularly efficient way to cut down on the crime rate. In fact, serious crimes in 1969 mounted at just about the same rate as the growth in the Metropolitan Police Department. Even if blanketing the city with cops does eventually produce some reduction in crime, it's about as cost-effective to do it this way as it is to win the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese with napalm.

Already Washington has one-third more cops per thousand population than does Baltimore, 85 per cent more than Milwaukee and Cleveland and almost three times as many as Atlanta. All these cities have a lower crime rate than Washington. Simply adding more cops is not going to do the job.

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark attempted the other day to explain why this is so. Said Clark: "The fact is that of all serious crimes in the United States, less than 2 percent ever result in a conviction." Clark added, "Most crime in the U. S. today is never reported to the police."

Seventy-five per cent of America's criminals come from broken homes, says Clark. Ninety per cent will not complete high school.

He might have added that in the core of American cities--such as Washington--the unemployment, underemployment and employment at less than subsistence wages affects as much as 30% of the work force, particularly hitting the young single male responsible for much of the crime. Adding more cops won't change these conditions a particle.

. . . and where they come from

WHERE will all the new cops come from? In recent months, there has been considerable publicity given to the police department's desire to increase the number of blacks on the force. There has been some improvement, far from enough, but better than before. Now, however, the headway may be lost. In the drive to blow up the size of the force, the police department is starting a "world-wide" recruiting campaign, relying heavily upon the military as a manpower source. Patrolmen recruited by the Army will be given early release from the service. According to the Washington Post, other officers will be recruited among "blue-collar workers who are unhappy on or have been laid off other jobs" in Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Boston and the Wilkes-Barre, Pa. area.

Washington doesn't need patrolmen screened by the Army. It doesn't need more police officers unfamiliar with the city. It does need proportionately more black officers on the force, especially at command levels. But it looks as if the District Building has lost interest in such things.

If a drug addict steals \$50,000 worth of goods a year to maintain his habit, what's it worth to the city to cure him and why aren't we spending this amount?

Who's fighting inflation?

BEGINNING on page S524 of the January 24 Congressional Record is a good summary of what the Nixon Administration isn't telling Middle America. It's contained in a speech on high interest rates by Senator Albert Gore of Tenn. Gore points out that in the six months beginning December 1968 interest rates rose 36%. Gore said:

"The administration cloaks this tight money-high interest rate policy in the loftiest of motives. We are going to curb inflation, they say. But at whose expense are they assertedly curbing inflation? Is it at the expense of the big banks? Oh no, for they are reporting the highest profits in history. Is it at the expense of the big corporations? Oh no, for the big corporations have already announced that capital expenditures will increase by over 10 per cent this year. Is it at the expense of the insurance companies? Oh no, they have record prosperity."

Senator Gore, in his speech, gives the facts and figures. It's worth reading. Not surprisingly, he's the target of a major GOP campaign this fall when he runs for re-election.

Last year, as consumer prices jumped more than they had in 18 years, some banks increased their profits as much as 40%.

That's something to consider as you buy your butter and eggs at the local supermarket.

Highway Dep't pollution 'plan'

THOMAS Airis of Potomac, Md.--director of our local highway construction and community demolition department--has come up with a nifty plan to cut down on the pollution caused by all the cars he's bringing into the city. He proposed, we presume in all seriousness, that "the District of Columbia work toward getting legislation which would authorize the city to pay a premium, 50 percent above the normal price, for vehicles that meet California (emission) standards." In other words, Airis would pay Detroit manufacturers 50% more per car to have the auto-makers cease killing us. Airis calls this "a positive approach to reduction of vehicle-caused air pollution."

The Highway Department, in its bid for more freeways, also claims that forbidding freeways will not cut down on pollution because traffic would be kept on surface streets where slow speeds and frequent stops make engine exhausts their dirtiest."

This is pure cant (about the only thing pure coming out of the highway lobby these days). One need only look at the number of cars that have been added to surface streets by freeway construction.

Any reduction in individual emissions is more than compensated for by increased traffic.

RED Skelton: "I'm not a Catholic -- I've studied 26 different religions -- but on a small altar at home we keep a picture of Mr. Nixon. And during the 1968 presidential campaign, I lighted candles daily for him."

Woodson's window gambit

GRANVILLE Woodson, assistant school superintendent for buildings and grounds, has quietly instituted a policy of installing translucent shatter-proof panes in place of clear glass in school windows. While the policy may seem to be some improvement over Woodson's previous practice of letting broken school windows remain unrepaired for months at a time, it also has the result of creating windowless classrooms for children. At one school we know of, Giddings Elementary in Near SE, several teachers complained loudly enough to cause Woodson to retreat. He also told them that the system would not install the translucent panes in schools where teachers objected.

The question is, however, whether the school system will make any effort to inform teachers and parents of this policy. Perhaps the School Board and the Teacher's Union would like to assist in this matter.

On the stump?

IF President Nixon intends to wage war on pollution, he'd better do some proselytizing within his own party. A majority of the House Republicans voted against stronger anti-water pollution efforts in 1956, 1959, 1961, 1967, 1968, and 1969. A majority of the House GOP voted against the Air Pollution Act of 1963 and voted to cut air pollution funds in 1966. A majority voted against estuary preservation and the creation of three new national parks in 1966.

Which brings to mind Adlai Stevenson's sage comment about Mr. Nixon: that he was the kind of politician who would stand on a redwood stump and make a speech about conservation.

Crime and the NRA

THE American Rifleman is the one million circulation publication of the National Rifle Association, a lobbying organization whose effort on behalf of more guns for everyone is a main cause for the failure of federal, state and local governments to pass meaningful gun control laws. The NRA is an extremist organization -- far more extreme than either the SDS or the John Birch Society. Few have died as a result of the political activities of the SDS or the Birchites. Every day people are dying because of the nation's gun lobby.

Typical of the efficient work on behalf of guns is the reprint we received in the mail from the American Rifleman. There was a note attached saying, "We thought this would be of special interest to you." There was also a photo of the article's author, superimposed on a drawing of the allegorical figure of blind justice, which we obviously were supposed to print.

The article discusses Washington's crime rate, which is nothing new in the press these days. What is interesting is the moral the Rifleman draws:

"Metropolitan Police Chief Jerry Wilson, commenting on the capital's gun law, said that he had never seen registration of guns as an effective law enforcement device in terms of the type of crime that everyone is talking about ...

"The police chief referred to a District of Columbia ordinance, enacted in 1968, requiring the registration

of all privately owned firearms and the licensing of all privately owned long-arms."

The headline over the article read: "D. C. Crime Increases Despite 1968 Gun Law."

What the article doesn't note is that neither Chief Wilson nor his predecessors ever made any significant effort to enforce gun laws. Just recently in a turnabout, federal officials stepped in to start a crackdown on guns.

The article also doesn't note that gun control advocates are well aware of the limitations of recently passed gun legislation, that it is ineffective and only a small first step towards what is really needed: the disarmament of the American -- at the very least, the total abolition of hand-guns.

The NRA wants us to stay armed. It sells guns and that's what keeps the NRA going. And contributes strongly to rising crime rates. And death.

Portrait of a city on the skids

THE Commissioner's new budget is the story of a city on the skids. Over twenty-seven percent of the budget is assigned to public safety expenses, slightly more than will be spent for education, twice that to be spent on health, four times that spent on improving the urban environment, double the welfare expenditures. These cockeyed priorities make no sense for the health, education or welfare of the people. Neither do they make sense for the city's public safety. Civil tranquility will not be found in the law enforcement pork barrel. It will be found in a city that meets the needs of its residents.

Soot alley

COLEMAN McCarthy, in a good three-part series on pollution in the Post, quotes Smith Griswold, a pollution consultant and former top pollution aide in the Department of HEW, as describing downtown K St. as "one of the worst soot alleys in the nation."

Said Griswold: "I see in Washington every day at least 10 violations of what would end up with court action in Los Angeles (where Griswold was pollution control officer for many years --Ed.). Just take the black smoke coming from buildings; that was banned in Los Angeles in 1956. Washington has a smoke abatement ordinance, and I've heard of cases where obvious violators have been warned. But what does a warning do? Violators keep right on polluting. I haven't heard of anyone being taken to court because of breaking the pollution ordinance.

"Go to the top of any downtown building at any hour of the day. Wherever you turn, you'll see smoke coming from a building--a violation against basic pollution measures. Everyone who has eyes and lungs knows the big violators. Pepco has been one of the worst. The downtown Hilton has been typical of the hotels. At regular intervals, the tubes of the boilers are blown. That's what causes the black smoke plumes to shoot out of the chimney. It makes a man-made pollution cloud."

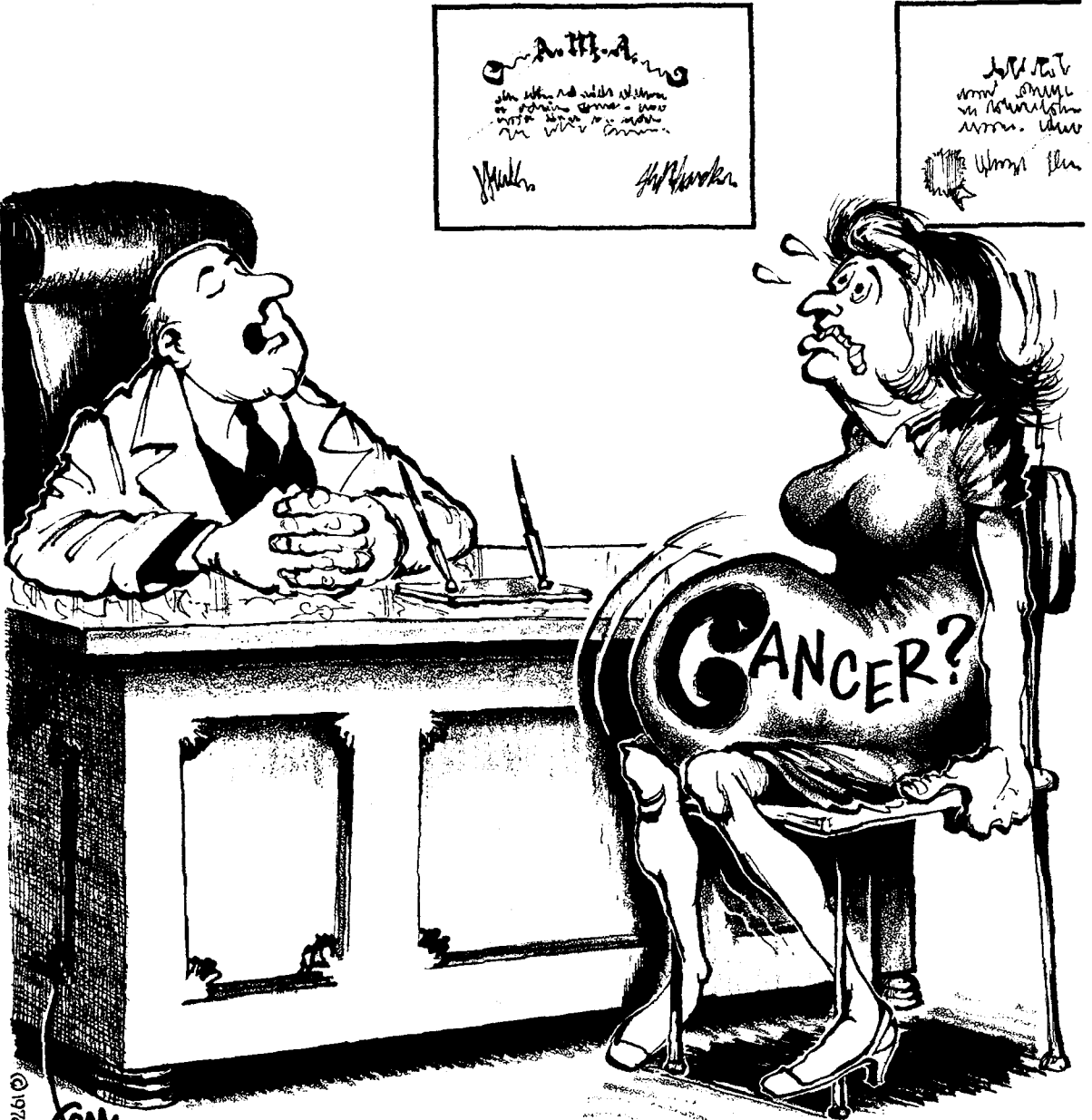
THE best of Richard Nixon (on Judge Carswell): "If everyone in Washington in government service who has belonged or does belong to restricted golf clubs were to leave the service, this city would have the highest rate of unemployment of any city in the country."

- * VIETNAM FILMS
peoples' war
day of plane hunting
- * PANTHER FILMS
may day
bobby seale
- * CUBA FILMS
isle of youth
historia de una batalla
- * AMERIKA FILMS
high school rising
peoples' park

plus 50 other films available
catalogues available

3728 jocelyn st. n.w.
Washington, d.c.
362-5380

newsreel.wash.d.c.
film showings & distribution



"Actually, nobody ever claimed 'the pill' was one hundred per cent effective."

Politics and movies

JOEL E. SIEGEL

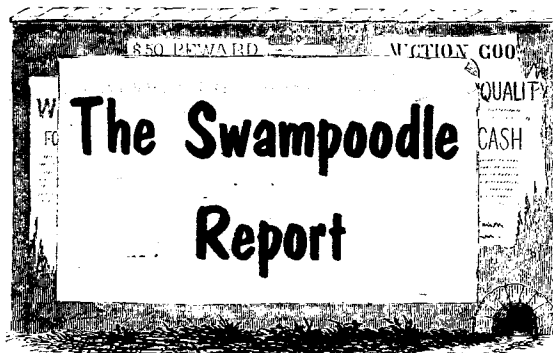
ALTHOUGH lots of movies these days are trying to make political noises ("Medium Cool" and the Columbia U. sequence of "John and Mary") and lots more, like "The Strawberry Statement," "The Activist" and "Prologue" are on the way, thus far movie politics have raised more sound than fury. This is not to say that we haven't had good and even great films which have touched upon political themes. There have been satisfying films about men with the will to power --- "Citizen Kane," "A Face in the Crowd," "All the King's Men"---as well as satires of such men---"The Great Dictator," "The Great McGinty" and George S. Kaufman's neglected "The Senator was Indiscreet." There have been films which have forced people to address pressing social and political problems ("I am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang," "The Grapes of Wrath") and films which have helped to create social and political nightmares ("Triumph of the Will.") Still, apart from Jean-Luc Godard's demanding but infinitely rewarding "La Chinoise" and "Weekend," I can't think of any films which really succeed as political acts, which force the viewer to examine and perhaps alter the state of his own body politic.

There are some obvious reasons why movies fail to convey the complexities of political thought and action. In most films about political life, like "Advise and Consent" and "The Best Man," we are urged to care about the protagonists, usually thin-veiled versions of actual persons, to the almost total exclusion of the issues and ideas for which the characters presumably stand. Conversely, films which are more concerned with political ideas, Soviet and American propaganda movies, are so cheaply dogmatic and so shabbily deny the potentialities of art and of the film medium that we can hardly manage to sit through them. And then there is the problem of the medium itself. Truly political problems are perhaps too complex to deal with in images. One needs the more intricate, ethically more flexible medium of language. It could be argued that the decline of political thought in the U. S. parallels the rise of television and the necessity of putting complex ideas into simple images. Indeed, television may well have bankrupted political language; the characteristic phrases of the last two administrations, "the great society" and "the silent majority" are so hollow of meaning that they might better be thought of as images, perhaps posters.

These rambling speculations about movies and politics have been spurred by two new films in town with political overtones, one rather dismal and one quite satisfying. The good one, Costa-Gavras' "Z" (at the Cerberus) has been so well and widely praised that I can't think of anything new to say about it. If you care anything about movies, you already know by now that "Z" is based upon the Lambrakis affair in Greece, that it was filmed in Algeria by an essentially French company with the added participation of Irene Papas and a Mikis Theodorakis score smuggled out of Greece, and that it is a joltingly good thriller, the best we have had since, say, "The Manchurian Candidate". One could not ask anything more of an action film; it is wittingly written (by Greek exile Jorge Semprum of "La Guerre est Finie"), brilliantly edited to move at a lightening pace and the photography (by Raoul Coutard, Godard and Truffaut's cinematographer) is dazzling, particularly in its range of transparent white and blue tones. Except for the sting imparted by today's absurdly inflated movie prices, I can't imagine how anybody could fail to be entertained by "Z".

Costa-Gavras, the exiled Greek dancer-turned-filmmaker ("The Sleeping Car Murders"), has stated that he intends "Z" as a political act, however, I seriously doubt whether the film has any more power than a poster. True, it is commendably

anti-fascist, but who apart from Spiro Agnew would dare to praise publicly the illegal military junta presently occupying Greece? Like a poster, "Z" proclaims its position boldly but fails to go any further into the intricacies of the political situation. The fascists are invariably sadists, homosexuals and goons; the liberals are godlike in their devotion to truth, honor and decency. (A half-hearted attempt to make the Lambrakis figure, Yves Montand, an adulterer, and thereby to "humanize" him, fails for its very obviousness.) "Z" has a comic-book vision of political struggle; you can almost see the white hats and black mustaches. The film's moral stereotypes are as rigid as those of the Western; such moral polarization makes "Z" as entertaining, and as shallow as the best cowboy films. One could leave it at that, and say that "Z" is such a greased lightening thriller, nobody who sees it will give the slightest damn about the oversimplification of issues and ideas. Still, it's odd that Costa-Gavras, in attempting to create an anti-fascist film, has chosen to work in the most fascistic of genres---the suspense thriller. After all, thrillers and demagogues employ the same techniques---suppression of essential facts, manipulation of basic human fears, the elevation of effectiveness and efficiency above truth and reason. It's rather weird, then, to discover in the last scene of "Z" that this director who has manipulated us so breathtakingly is speaking out against political



SEVERAL years ago, Martin Luther King told the American people, "I have a dream."

The other day, at a joint session of Congress, President Nixon told the American people that he too had a dream, but in the interests of curbing inflation he wasn't going to tell us about it.

He did announce a war on pollution. He called for a program to build municipal waste treatment plants and said that, "each of us must resolve that each day he will leave his home, his property, the public places of the city or town a little cleaner, a little better, a little more pleasant for himself and those around him." Not since President Eisenhower got Arthur Godfrey to go on radio and urge us to buy a new car in order to end a recession has a chief executive so clearly outlined our duties as citizens. If each of us will just be a little more careful with our bubble gum wrappers, Lake Erie may live again.

In the latest of his historic speeches, Mr. Nixon also discussed crime. He said that Congressmen were afraid to walk home at night to their Capitol Hill homes from the congressional parking lots. I don't blame them, considering the shape some are in. Someone might accidentally step on their hands.

But crime in Washington is nothing to laugh about. My 92-year-old grandmother isn't laughing. She reports that she has already maced so many would-be muggers that the District Building is getting complaints about violence among senior citizens. Walter Washington is thinking seriously of having cops at the stated meetings of her Golden Age Club.

But not everything's bleak. Over at the Commerce

manipulation. Form and content are at odds, to put it mildly.

Alfred Hitchcock's "Topaz," at the Town, is based upon Leon Uris' espionage novel about the Cuban missile crisis. Like Hitchcock's last film, "The Torn Curtain," it is a radical departure for this cunning filmmaker. At his best, Hitchcock ensnares and manipulates us so that, in the end, everybody has a good time for being safely frightened. But in his last two films, the director has abandoned suspense and come up with two curiously unsatisfying political morality plays.

I can't really recommend "Topaz" to anybody but moviegoers who, like me, see each Hitchcock film as a matter of policy. The acting, with the exception of nice character bits by Philippe Noiret and Roscoe Lee Browne, is shockingly inept---particularly that of John Vernon, John Forsythe and Frederick Stafford, the male version of Tippi Hedren. (Karin Dor, who has previously appeared in German quickies, makes an interesting American debut. In successive scenes, she looks like Linda Darnell, Elizabeth Taylor and Jean Simmons before sinking to the floor and dying like a huge purple flower.) Samuel Taylor's dialogue would not be out of place in "The Bald Soprano" and everything else, the dated styles of makeup and lighting, the use of process screens for exteriors, relegates the film to some sort of never-never-limbo. This sense of unreality was responsible for the hypnotic effect of "Vertigo," Hitchcock's greatest movie, but that one was about a man in the throes of a Romantic agony and not about Castro and the missile crisis.

And yet, somehow, the very falseness of "Topaz" almost becomes a style in itself; serious, partly factual material handled in such an inept, storybook

(Please turn to page 16)

Department they've got things together. My editor received a news release of a forthcoming press conference. In the thick packet were copies of little talks to be given by Undersecretary Rocco C. Sicilano and U. S. Travel Service Director C. Langhorne Washburn. Mr. Washburn, who was to be introduced to the press by Mr. Sicilano, is apparently a man who has a tendency to wing it in such situations, for the printed advance text of his speech begins this way:

"Thank you, Rocco."

Herbert Klein is apparently leaving nothing to chance. Like the advance text of one of ex-Senator Keating's speeches in which was printed at one point:

"If I may depart from my prepared text for a moment..."

Over at the White House, the big news is the new dress uniforms for the White House police. Mr. Nixon ordered them designed after he was told he couldn't place cast-iron black liveries outside the White House gates. Even John Mitchell said that was pushing the southern strategy a little too far.

But the President wanted to make sure everyone knew that he was president and that it was a

V*E*R*Y I*M*P*O*R*T*A*N*T J*O*B.

Besides, it has been observed that a little sartorial splendor outside the presidential palace helps distract people from what's going on inside.

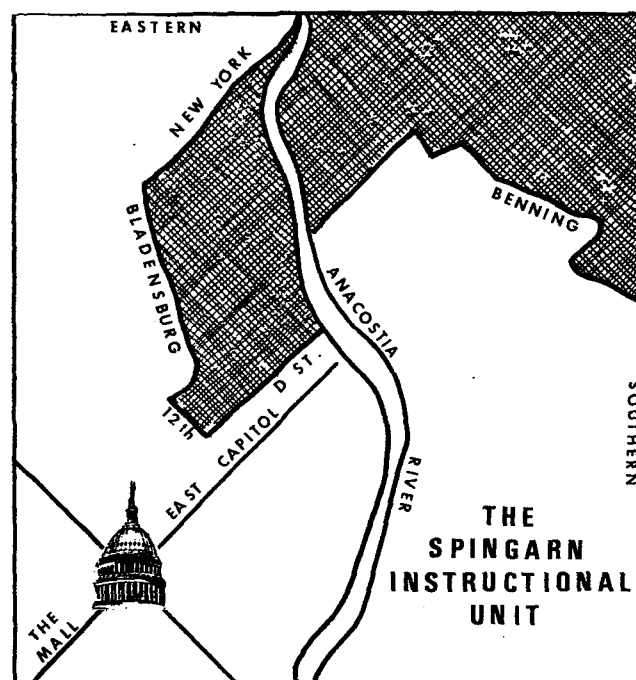
While some fashion experts have complained about the monarchical and fascist implications of the new uniform, I think this is overrated. The most serious problem I see is that the epaulettes and tunic are going to look terribly gauche when officers wear gas masks.

Journal of Swampoodle

Subscribe today

DC schools decentralize ...quietly

KATHY SMITH



MRS. Bessie Ethridge has recently left her office in the Department of English at the downtown D. C. school headquarters for furnitureless, phoneless, corner of the Carver elementary school at 45th and Lee, N. E.

She is the vanguard of a plan to decentralize the D. C. school system. . . a process taking place under the nondescriptive title, "The Five Year Plan."

Mrs. Ethridge is in charge of the Spingarn instructional unit, the first to be formed under the plan which calls for complete decentralization of the present Department of Instruction by 1975. Her district includes almost 18,000 students who go to Spingarn High School and the elementary and junior high schools which feed into it.

"My job is to knock the kinks out of the plan," says Mrs. Ethridge. She is finding the kinks somewhat kinkier due to lack of funds. The School Board unanimously authorized funding of the plan this past fall but the project was not included in the 1970 budget.

Until money is located somewhere within the present budget, Mrs. Ethridge has to try everything from finding foundation money to begging and borrowing secretarial services from other departments.

She has two rooms on the ground floor of Carver and one demountable classroom on the Carver playground for her staff of nine, "but not a stick of furniture."

"Right now we're just camping out," she says. "We borrowed a few chairs from the principal's office to sit on."

"This project is designed to see that service is beamed directly to the teachers and the pupils. This is most important. If we bring all instructional services close to the public they serve, we ought to see a reflection in the product," she says.

The plan is supposed to bring subject matter specialists, curriculum development people, special education staff, and teacher-training experts from their downtown offices to neighborhoods where they can be of direct and immediate service to teachers.

The neighborhood office will also have a business manager who will provide a more direct route to the supplies which now sometimes take many months to get.

The staff in the district office will be assisted by an advisory committee consisting of three principals, three teachers, and one parent from each school. "The original proposal called for only two parents from the entire area, but I just couldn't justify that," explains Mrs. Ethridge who has the flexibility to change the plan where she finds it unworkable.

School Board member Martha Swaim believes this program is unique among urban efforts to make the school bureaucracy more responsive to the communities they serve. . . and she believes it may be more successful than programs in other cities.

In Detroit, New York, and Philadelphia community control is coming before decentralization of the instructional system.

"Oceanhill-Brownsville is an example of what happens in this case," says Mrs. Swaim. "If you

don't change the school system first, the community comes right up against the same archaic administration. You have people pushing; you have to have some people who will respond."

Betsey Levine of the Urban Institute has studied the New York, Philadelphia, and Detroit experiences in this area and points out that in these cities demands for community control came faster and stronger than the school boards had expected. As a result there was no time to decentralize the instructional administration first.

She agrees with Mrs. Swaim that this causes some serious problems. She points to the fact that the three experimental community schools in New York found themselves completely cut off from the educational specialists and services of the central administration.

The D. C. system is working from the opposite direction, decentralizing the instructional bureaucracy before power is decentralized. So far the D. C. School Board has done little about community control, although the Adams-Morgan and the Anacostia school project do have community boards with limited powers.

The advisory committees established in the Five Year Plan are mainly vehicles to involve the community with the teachers and principals in developing curriculum.

"I intend to put the community to work--sincerely, not in a token way," says Mrs. Ethridge. "That will take some doing--to convince the community that I am real. They don't believe it."

The community the Spingarn project affects has little reason to believe it, for as Mrs. Ethridge notes, it is an area with few special city services, no educational experiments, no adult education program, and no effective community organization. "It is virgin territory."

The Five Year Plan's guiding principles are these: The pupil and teacher constitute the primary relationship in instruction. The teacher must have more freedom and an expanded role in developing curriculum which is relevant to today. And there must be broad participation in curriculum decisions.

The goal of the department, the plan states, is to raise the achievement level of students in the classroom and to maximize their potential fulfillment as individuals and as citizens.

"In our view the best and most direct route to meeting these goals is through providing better training and assistance to the classroom teacher and guaranteeing that materials, supplies, and ideas move systematically and continuously into the classroom.

The neighborhood office in the Carver school will be the center for this movement of ideas and supplies.

Here the teachers will be able to look at new curriculum materials, mimeograph curriculum materials of their own, attend meetings and workshops, and obtain immediately needed supplies.

The teacher will find here a staff of specialists to help with problems. According to the plan there will be a total of 21 specialists in the various subjects such as math, music, and social studies, as well as

in the areas of elementary, secondary, and adult education.

There will be 3 specialists in research and curriculum development; 5 people in special services such as speech, hearing and the clinical aspects of reading; four people in staff development to develop training programs for teachers; and three people to work in the classroom with teachers in implementing new curriculum.

The staff will perform in teams, drawing on subject matter specialists, teachers, principals, and parents to create special task forces to work on specific projects.

All of this, it is obvious, is not now possible in the basement of the Carver school. Due to lack of funds all that Mrs. Ethridge has now is a skeleton staff of six subject matter specialists, two staff development people, and one person in special services.

Her fear is that the program will nevertheless be judged as a full program, and will fall short before it is given a fair trial.

Other problems are not due to lack of funds, but are bugs which need to be worked out of the plan. For example, each school has a liaison teacher who is meant to be the link between the neighborhood center and their schools. These liaison teachers however will have full teaching loads and therefore will not be free to attend workshops or get out into the community as they should.

"There must be a back-up teacher for these people," says Mrs. Ethridge. "They cannot have full schedules and be effective."

The same lack of freedom from regular classroom duties will make it difficult for all other teachers to take advantage of workshops and meetings at the center. The difficulty is compounded in the Spingarn area because it is difficult to get regular substitutes to come to this part of town.

"I am trying to get permission to train paraprofessionals to serve as substitutes who would accept offers only from this area," says Mrs. Ethridge.

While Mrs. Ethridge wants to get the teachers occasionally out of the classroom, she also wants to get the specialists out of the center and into the classrooms.

These specialists will work with individual teachers in planning and implementing new programs and will give advice on educational materials.

She sees this as a change in the traditional role of the supervisor which has been to make occasional visits to the classroom to evaluate the performance of the teacher.

"The idea now is for the supervisor to help teachers do a better job, not to sit in a corner and write notes about them."

The Five Year plan calls for a second decentralized instructional unit to begin this month, however, no action has been taken by the School Board. The other nine units to be formed will also be centered on the high schools and their feeder elementary and junior schools.

For the time being, though, Mrs. Ethridge says, "I can't ask many questions. There are no prototypes".

SOME SALT

from page 2

city to city it does not vary significantly with changes in transportation patterns in that city. Thus, if most people spend 20 to 30 minutes going to work each day, opening up new roads does not cause people to spend more time with their families; rather they tend to gravitate toward jobs that are the same time-span away or move further out of town where land and housing is cheaper.

If that seems too esoteric, take a ride on the Long Island Expressway in New York or the Schuylkill Expressway in Philadelphia or the Southwest Freeway in Washington at rush hour. That's the empirical approach. It leads to the same conclusion: freeways do not solve problems, they create them. As Channing Philips puts it: "A freeway is its own worst enemy. It attracts automobile traffic. A freeway worsens, rather than relieves, traffic congestion. A freeway is also the worst enemy of rail rapid transit. A rapid transit system, with a balanced freeway and bridge system along side, cannot and will not be viable and economically feasible. You cannot construct a transit line down the median strip of the North Central Freeway and expect the transit line to reduce automobile traffic into the city, to carry maximum loads, or to be a paying proposition."

One could go into lengthy arguments, but in the present case it seems superfluous. An informal referendum taken at last November's election found 85% of those voting opposed the construction of the Three Sisters Bridge. When the Maryland Roads Commission proposed to drive a freeway through two Montgomery County parks, the outcry was loud enough to bring a halt to the projects and make staid county politicians suddenly begin to echo the long-standing complaints of freeway foes such as Reginald Booker and Sammie Abbott.

That freeways are intrinsically wrong for our cities is too much of a truism to make a good story. What remains a story is why what is true cannot prevail.

That brings us back to Mr. Jacobson and Sterling Laundry. For as Sterling is unfortunately situated in the path of the North Central Freeway, so the city of Washington is unfortunately situated in the path of key interstate highway routes. The North Central Freeway begins not at the District line, but in Houlton, Maine at the New Brunswick border and on West 22nd St. in Miami, Florida. The North Leg of the freeway will not stop at the Virginia side of the Three Sisters Bridge but extend westward to gather in the harvest of the national interstate system.

The North Central and the North Leg are being planned to save interstate trucks 14 to 18 miles of travelling around the Beltway. Every interstate truck that can run through Mr. Jacobson's plant can save several gallons of gas.

It's been said that the freeways will aid commuters. But you don't hear that as much anymore. The commuters aren't rising to the Highway Department's defense. Hundreds of civic organizations in suburban counties have gone on record against the roads--even the association in Montgomery County whose first vice-president is Mrs. Thomas Airis, wife of the D. C. Highway Director. Mrs. Airis' group doesn't want freeways coming through Potomac, Md. any more than the people in Palisades want the Three Sisters Bridge or the Brookland Civic Association wants the North Central Freeway or the residents of Shaw want an eight-lane knife through their community.

So now Mr. Airis says that 65% of the traffic on these roads will be during non-rush hours. What does that mean? It means interstate trucks and cars roaring through town at 60 miles an hour from somewhere to somewhere else, leaving their memory in our lungs and eyes.

True, Mr. Airis is not without support. He has friends in the trucking lobby, the cement lobby,

the tire lobby, and the automobile lobby. But even that might not be enough were it not for the friendship of these lobbies with others in the matrix of power, such as congressional committee chairmen whose campaign contributions rise with the interstate mileage. The day before the City Council began its hearings, Mr. Airis was up on the Hill in secret session with the Senate Public Works Committee. A key staffer in the Highway Department is on loan to a house committee that controls Washington's road destiny. And some of Mr. Airis's friends, the cement manufacturers, have a lot to say about what goes on in Bolling Green, Ky., the home of the notorious Mr. Natcher.

Then there is the daily press, the Post and the Star, whose support of the road lobby has only begun to waver as they have discovered that their own sort of people, white middle class suburbanites, were beginning to march to a different drummer.

And the Federal City Council, which is the misnomer given a lobbying organization that gets away with promoting environmental destruction on behalf of the road-builders tax-free while the Sierra Club loses its exemption for promoting environmental conservation.

This coalition of disaster not only wants the North Central, it wants to put a freeway through the heart of Shaw. Yes, it still does, despite what the Commissioner says. The official line is that the North Leg will not follow the U St. alignment proposed by the Highway Department. When the department's plans were exposed, Walter Washington reacted swiftly. Why? Because he knew the plan was dynamite, an invitation to riot.

But where will the North Leg go? The District is attempting to buy time. It wants another 18 months to study the route of a cross-town expressway, 18 months in which to get the Three Sisters Bridge built and the North Central Freeway started so the North Leg can be handled separately. By then perhaps the anger over these projects will subside and the people of Shaw will once again be isolated in battle.

Officials talk vaguely of a K St. tunnel. But downtown businesses and the Federal City Council don't want a K St. tunnel. What good will a no-

exit tunnel from 23rd St. NW to the Center Leg do downtown?

The real planning is elsewhere. Director Airis let it slip at the hearings when he said that the road must be something "for the businesses to the south and the residents to the north." Pick a street -- L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, (no, not T for Walter Washington lives on that street). That's where it will go -- just as soon as the city thinks it's safe to do it.

The fathomless depths of power arrayed against the will of the city's citizens, the lateness of the hour, the quisling philosophy of the District Building, all these seem to militate against hope. Still something remains.

As I write this, the Court of Appeals is once again considering the freeway issue. Once before it stopped construction. It would be harder this time, far harder, but the chance lingers.

There is also the slim chance that the City Council will find its own cowardice intolerable in the face of the fortitude of the public. It could say, finally, that we have joined the battle, that no more roads will be built, that we will represent the people all the way to the Supreme Court, that we will stand firm in the face of congressional blackmail.

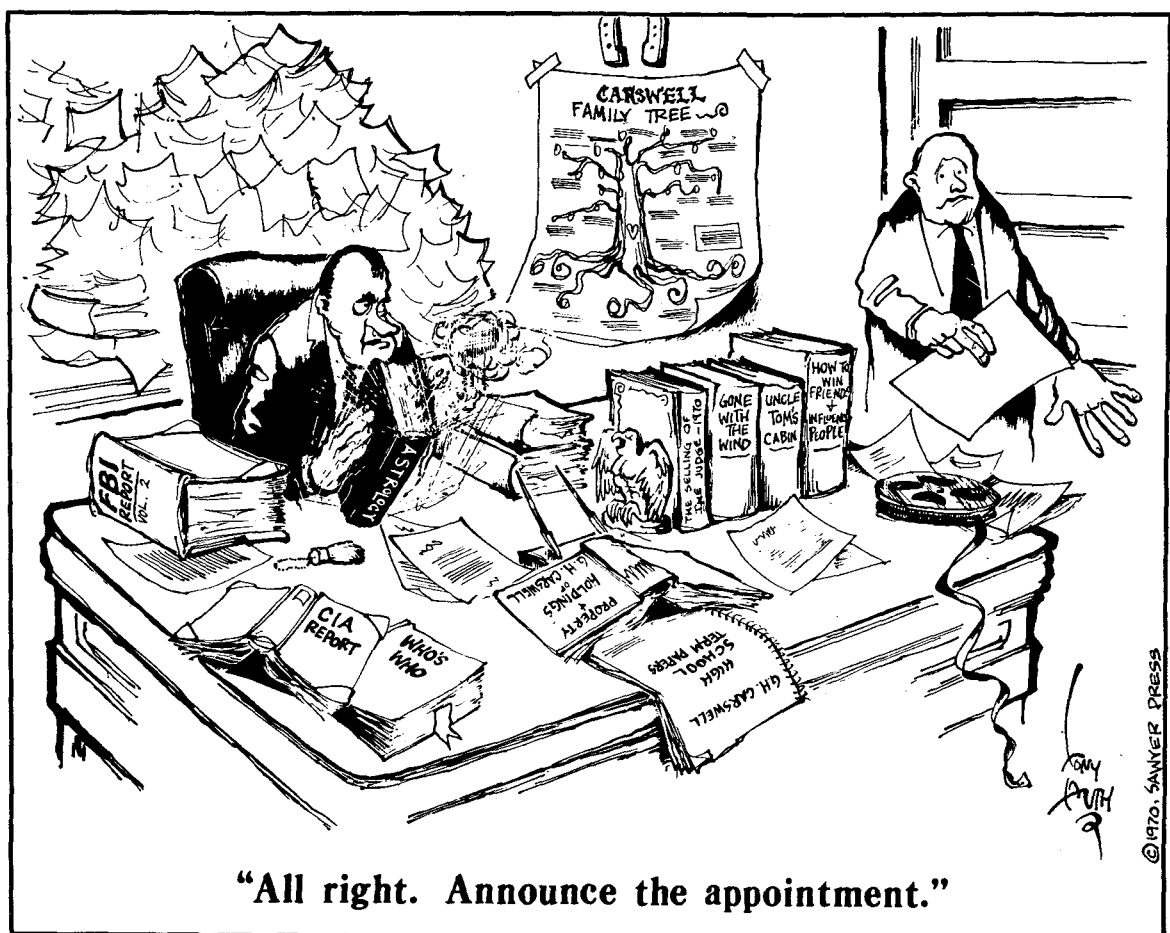
And Walter Washington could say, "Enough, I'm off to join the company of men. As long as I am Commissioner there will be no more roads."

And President Nixon could fire them all. But so what? They do us no service grovelling at the foot of Capitol Hill and at the White House gates.

What is so bad about a small experiment in courage on the part of the City Council?

I know I write of straws. I know -- by every fact that I can glean -- that it won't happen. But it could. And it is the faint glimmer of the possible improbability that keeps men giving enough of a damn to fight for things that matter.

Even if the Council once again turns its back on the District, the freeway fight won't be over. It might become more nasty, rougher, but it will go on. For while a legislature can veto what is right, it can not make people forget it or not want it.



What war on crime?

BRUCE TERRIS

On June 22, 1968, Richard Nixon, then candidate for the Republican nomination for president, said that Washington was in the "grip of a genuine crime crisis," and that it "has become one of the crime capitals of the nation." He stated "I pledge that a Nixon Administration will sweep the streets of Washington clean of these marauders and criminals" and promised that the "war will be won."

Three months later, on September 27, 1968, Richard Nixon, then candidate for president, said in a statement released in Chattanooga, Tennessee, that "a Nixon Administration will make it a first order of business to sweep the streets of Washington free of these prowlers and muggers." He promised that "the crime wave is going to begin to recede (in Washington) under the new Administration." He further instructed us that since Washington "is the one city in this country where the Federal Government is the agency responsible for law enforcement" "it is the one city in America where the crime statistics give a precise reading of a national Administration's concern over the national crime crisis."

During the first nine months of 1969, crime rose by 15% in cities of comparable size to Washington and 25% in Washington. Violent crime alone in comparable cities rose 22%; it rose 43% or twice as fast in Washington. Homicides rose 16% in cities of comparable size but 56% in Washington or almost four times as fast. Robberies rose 22% in cities of comparable size but 54% in Washington or 2-1/2 times as fast. In short, crime, and particularly violent crime, in Washington increased far, far faster than in comparable cities across the country.

The figures are even more startling if we compare the increase in crime in Washington during the first nine months of 1969 with the increase in crime in the same nine months in 1968--the exact time when Mr. Nixon was assailing the Democratic Administration for crime in the District. The increase in all violent crime in the first nine months of 1968 in Washington was 22%; in 1969 it had doubled to 43%. In 1968, homicides had actually dropped 1%; in 1969 they rose 56%. Robberies rose 38% in 1968 and 54% in 1969. By September 1969, more robberies had been committed than in the entire year of 1968.

Statistics, of course, are only a reflection of what is actually happening on the streets. Crime has risen in our schools and libraries to such a degree that it threatens to close them down. Heroin and other hard drugs are easily obtainable including in the schools. The Administration's own high-level personnel have been frequently victimized.

While it would be unfair to blame the Nixon Administration for the increase in crime, it is not unfair to examine what it has done and not done.

The Nixon Administration submitted a massive crime bill which due to its length and complexity has necessarily required months for congressional action. The bill is filled with repressive measures which will do little to reduce crime but are designed to play to the emotions of our citizens. Significantly, almost none of the provisions in the Administration bill were included in the lengthy and detailed recommendations made by the National or District Crime Commissions to reduce crime after a year and a half of exhaustive study. Except for court reorganization, most of the Administration proposals should not be enacted because they will do little or nothing to reduce crime or may even increase it. And court reorganization would have already been adopted if it had not been tied to this repressive legislation.

The Administration proposed and obtained authorization for a second 1000 man increase in the police department within a year. However, the District police department has risen 25% in the last year precisely when crime has increased the fastest and now has more police officers per population than

any city in the country. Obviously, this is not the answer.

While most of our crime is committed by youths under 18, the Administration has done absolutely nothing about this problem except to propose treating more juveniles as adult offenders. It has proposed no programs to deal with juvenile delinquency when youngsters first get into trouble. It has eliminated funding the Neighborhood Development Youth Program, one of the organizations in the city dealing with hard-core youth.

The Nixon Administration's fiscal 1971 budget shows the Administration's strategy to control crime. It will provide over 500 million dollars for the Department of Justice to control crime, of which approximately three-quarters will go to the police.

In contrast, the Bureau of the Budget recently cut the request of the Office of Juvenile Delinquency from 20 to 15 million dollars.

Finally, the Administration has done almost nothing here or elsewhere in the country to attack poverty, the root cause of much of our crime. Its housing, employment welfare, health, and other social programs have been neglected and seriously under-funded. All have been sacrificed to the fight against inflation while huge military expenditures continue.

Crime is rising faster than ever before and the Administration's policy of repression has not and will not work.

Bruce Terris is chairman of the DC Democratic Central Committee.

Foot notes

MALCOLM KOVACS

THE extent of water pollution in Washington was brought home in a recent report by two top medical officers in the American Public Health Assn. Doctors Paul Cornely and Lester Breslow are quoted in a recent Jack Anderson column as follows.

"Washington, D. C., with its shaded avenues and curving shorelines, is the nation's pride. But in the serene Potomac River, which gently washes Washington's shores, the doctors found dead fish, floating sewage, rotting plant life. . . more than 400 million gallons of partially treated or raw sewage a day.

"Untreated excrement, deadly salmonella and other disease debris are eaten by fish that swim up and down the Potomac and far beyond. Indeed, Dr. Werner Janssen, a scientist at the Chemical Biological Warfare Center of Ft. Detrick, Md., warned the team that the fish were like secret time bombs spreading the 'human disease-producing organisms. . . to areas thought to be safe.

"The report blames federal and local governments, along with land developers, for despoiling and poisoning such rivers as the Potomac."

Echoing husband's verbal interest in the environment, Pat Nixon said recently that she intends to make cleaning up the Potomac a special project of hers in 1970, though just what she'll do--if anything--she doesn't say.

Cleaning up the Potomac will require strong action to force private interests and federal and state authorities to stop introducing pollutants. The easy-going voluntary approach of Pat and Dick seems unlikely to get the job done quickly and completely. Investigating and then pressuring private and governmental polluters would be a good project for Washington area residents interested in working for an improved local environment.

IF Giant Foods president Joe Danzansky really wants to do something to help people, there are things he could do which might be more useful than the United Givers Fund and the Mayors Economic Development Committee (MEDCO), both of which he heads.

Danzansky should consider using his power as Giant's president to aid black and white Washington area consumers. Here are some possibilities:

1. Introduce unit pricing without delay in all Giant stores. Unit pricing shows consumers the price per pound or per quart and thus lets the consumer know which product is the best buy for the money.

Safeway is currently--and apparently quite suc-

cessfully--experimenting with unity pricing in two of its inner-city Washington stores. Unit pricing usually shows the chain stores own brand goods to be the best buy, so there's something in it for Giant as well as the consumer.

(New York City tried to introduce unit pricing last November, but the food retailers there have been deliberately delaying. According to Bess Meyerson Grant, New York's active Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, "the men who manage the supermarkets. . . do not want to tell the truth to the consumer." She said that the cost to retailers would be slight, but a major group of New York food retailers is suing Mrs. Grant's department to stop truth-in-pricing. Some cooperative supermarkets there have already voluntarily made the change.)

2. Introduce competition into the city's supermarket business by opening stores in the inner city where Safeway now has an effective monopoly and people have no choice. With Giant's giant profits, they can afford such a risk.

3. Either eliminate "specials" or make them available in all stores. A recent Federal Trade Commission study disclosed that 11% of Giant's advertised items were either overpriced or unavailable. (Safeway had some 26% of its items either overpriced or unavailable.)

Joe Danzansky's response to proposals like these is important. It will tell us whether he is really interested in using his business power for the public welfare as well as for shareholders profits. Joe reads this column, we understand, so we are interested in his response, if any.

THE January 27th issue of Look contains an interesting special report in an article titled "The Secret Link between Nixon and the New Mobe Kids."

According to the article, top Nixon assistant John Ehrlichman set up a close working relationship with New Mobe staff members during the mid-November weekend of demonstrations here. The operation even had a name, Tranquility Base, and included White House and New Mobe staffers jointly running a communications network out of the Municipal Building to monitor -- and if necessary to control -- the weekend's events. Pat Moynihan's 23-year-old assistant, Richard Blumenthal (an ex-Washington Post cub reporter) joined two New Mobe staffers in

The Dow trial opens

ERBIN CROWELL

THE trial of the DC 9 opened in District Court last week, marked by secrecy and distrust. Trial Judge John H. Pratt prepared the trial by ordering council not to speak to newsmen, phoning three Washington dailies and telling them not to print anything about the defendants until after the trial had started, and reportedly threatening to rescind all bonds if any one of the DC 9 showed up for a trial session one minute late.

Before the first day ended, the judge had denied motions of five of the nine to defend themselves; the families and friends of the accused and the public were barred from the courtroom; non-attorney defendants refuted the judge on points of legal precedent; lawyers were ordered to represent clients over both attorneys' and defendants' protests; marshalls had manhandled an attorney; representatives of area university newspapers were told their papers had no standing and were turned away; supporting demonstrators across Pennsylvania Avenue were rained out; defendants and defense council were repeatedly prevented from addressing the court or were ignored; and another spectacle of the sort the country has come to expect in "political" trials seemed ready to steal some of the Chicago Conspiracy's calliope music.

The DC 9's charges of burglary and destruction of private property resulted from their protest action against Dow Chemical Co. for its production of napalm and other chemical, biological, bacteriological and asphixiatory weapons of war. Looks of good-humored chagrin repeatedly crossed their faces as their worst trial expectations materialized. Yet they retained their calm and compassion despite the rapidly accumulating evidence to support their deep conviction that this country -- its government and controlling corporations -- is greedily chewing away at its own vitals and destroying hundreds of thousands of innocents as it thrashes imperialistically and militarily about.

Most of the first morning was taken up with an unsuccessful motion by five of the nine to represent themselves. Perhaps the intensity of the defendants frightened the court. "I want to defend myself," stated Joseph O'Rourke, a Jesuit theology student, I want to take full responsibility for myself as I did in March of 1969." Since the court would make judgements on him, O'Rourke said, it should not do so through an attorney: "I want you to judge me not through (defense council Philip) Hirschkop; I want you to truly see and know me, who I am and what I believe."

O'Rourke's mother was finally allowed in the courtroom along with a few relatives of other defendants. The wife of a Dow Chemical employee bluffed her way in with them and was expelled. When defendant Arthur Melville, a former missionary in Guatemala, came to the Dow lady's defense, he was ignored. "The public should be allowed in during a trial," Sister Joann Malone pointed out to Judge Pratt. "This is a preliminary hearing, not a trial yet," the judge responded. "But preliminary hearings are also supposed to be public," Sister Joann said. "Normally," Pratt replied, and considering that sufficient, he ordered her to continue on other matters. She went on:

"I'm here because you and the U.S. Government have accused me of crimes which I am not guilty. Under the 6th and 7th Amendments, I have the right to speak for myself. We are dealing with a very serious life and death issue, and it must not be only a game of you speaking to lawyers.

"If I'm to face a 35 year sentence, I expect to be able to defend myself. I understand and deny the charges against me; I have knowledge of legal procedure; and I have no intention whatsoever of hindering the process of justice. If you deny me my rights here in this closed, secret court, then you bear a heavy responsibility."

Melville, O'Rourke, and Sister Joann were joined by Rev. Robert Begin, a priest from Cleveland, and Michael Dougherty, a Jesuit theology student. After a brief recess, Judge Pratt denied their right to represent themselves. Pratt attempted to assure that his denial was in the best interest of the defendants, but he repeatedly expressed fear of disruption, even though such intent was just as repeatedly denied by the defendants. O'Rourke cited two instances of rulings that the "accused should never have council not of his choice forced upon him," but was ignored. Defense council Addison Bowman and Phil Hirschkop repeatedly spoke up but were ignored or ordered quiet.

After the jury panel was ushered in, then ordered out by the judge, the remaining four defendants requested that they be allowed to defend themselves. That motion did not even get the ten minutes of "study and thought" afforded the previous motion, and was immediately denied.

"You continually express fear of disruption," Dougherty told the judge, "yet all nine of us have lived non-violently. We came here to what we thought was a court of justice, but we are being educated. First the public is kept out, so that justice has its ears cut off. Now we are not allowed to speak for ourselves, so our tongues are cut out. I request again my right to represent myself."

Melville and O'Rourke pointed out that the precedent cases cited in the judge's denial had no bearing to the present case, and Sister Joann asked Judge Pratt: "Why are you so afraid? We don't come here in

fear. Why are you so afraid to hear us or let the public hear? Our friends and families are outside. We're not afraid to speak before them, why are you? You speak before marshalls and the press. Why are you afraid of the people? There is no way for me to have a fair trial if I cannot represent myself."

But all pleas fell on deaf ears, as did Hirschkop's motion that the court disqualify itself because of prior and demonstrated prejudice. The jury panel was returned and selection began.

"We expected this sort of thing," Sister Joann said outside the court, "but it is so unjust and therefore so discouraging even when you expect it. We are here for justice. We are here to talk to the people of this country about the great injustice being done to the slaughtered people in Vietnam and to black Americans, and to all Americans who themselves suffer the maintenance of this irresponsible corporate system symbolized by Dow. The courts are tied to the government which is tied to the corporations which are governed by profit motive alone -- their existence has nothing to do with justice or humanity or morality."

"He's just not listening to us," said Catherine Melville, a former nun and missionary to Guatemala. "It's just absurd, absurd," defendant Michael Slaski, a draft resister from Detroit said. Rev. Dennis Maloney, a priest from Detroit, just shook his head. And as Rev. Bernard Meyer of Cleveland spoke, his mouth smiled, but his eyes still showed how troubled he was about the trial and about his country. "We are trying to live as hopefully and as joyfully as possible in this situation," he said quietly. "There is too much despair among the people. We'd like to demonstrate to others that they, too, can have hope and joy in spite of the insanity that's going on around them, the sad things that are happening to this country."

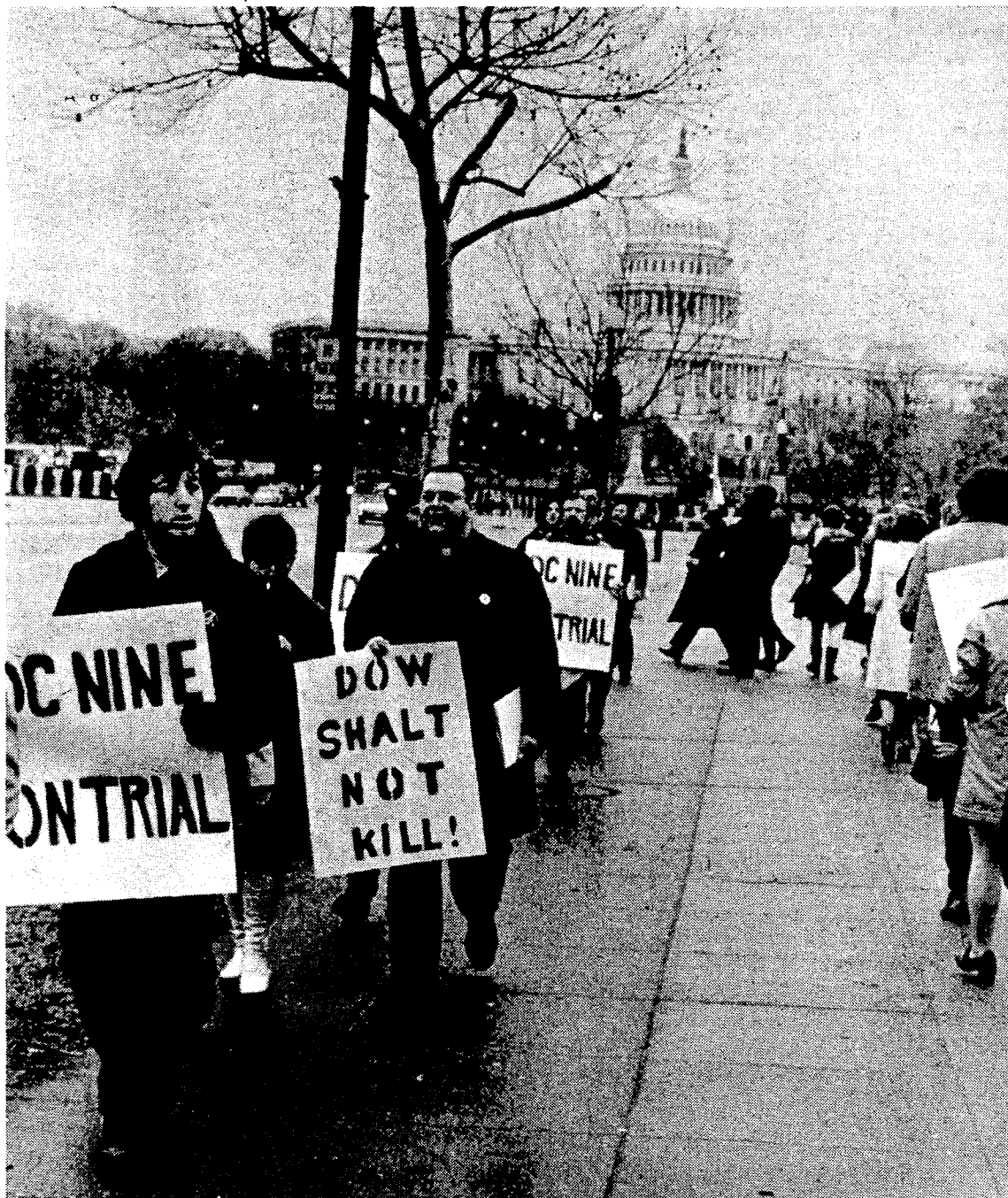


PHOTO BY ERBIN CROWELL

N.B. A survey of interesting reading

Neighborhood Government, The Local Foundations of Political Life by Milton Kotler. Bobbs-Merrill, 111pp., \$4.95. Kotler sees the problems of the cities as being in reality just the problems of people who feel powerless beneath the thumb of the ruling elite. He suggests the formation of neighborhood corporations to run everything from schools to business-industry. Karl Hess in the Washington Post says "It is, overall, revolution and not rebellion that Kotler seeks, and for which his book is the 'sleeper' document of the decade."

Points of Rebellion, by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Random House, 97pp. Justice Douglas says in this book scheduled for publication on February 19 that revolution may be the only honorable alternative to oppression by the American establishment. He writes, "George III was the symbol against which our Founders made a revolution now con-

sidered bright and glorious. . . We must realize that today's Establishment is the new George III."

The December, 1969, edition of the Journal of Housing contains the texts of addresses at the thirty-second conference of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. To mention a few: HUD Assistant Secretary for Urban Technology and Research Harold B. Finger describes the goal of "Operation Breakthrough"--to change the whole process of producing and delivering housing. Former Executive Director of Washington's MEDCO Carroll Harvey asks if the professional has forgotten the client. Former Minneapolis mayor Arthur Naftalin describes how his city has successfully coordinated its planning, redevelopment, and housing programs.

Workers, White and Black; Drumbeats in Detroit by Thomas R. Brooks and "Confron-

tation in Pittsburgh" by Stanley Plastrik in the Jan.-Feb. issue of Dissent. The former article describes the rise of black militancy in the Detroit area auto plants. The latter describes the impasse between the Black Construction Coalition and the Building Trades Council in Pittsburgh over the BCC's negotiable demands for more black union membership and for control over selection & training of new black members.

"Whatever Happened to Socialism?" by the chairman of the U.S. Socialist Party, Michael Harrington in the February Harper's. Harrington says ". . . the revival of the socialist dream as effective politics depends upon uniting the radical youth and social democratic elders at this point totally contemptuous of each other."

Congressional Record, Jan. 20, 1970, P. E113. A lengthy documented memorandum by a Chicago attorney on what's wrong wrong with preventative detention.

"Frontier Freedoms and Space Age Cities" by C. W. Griffin Jr. in the Feb. 7 Saturday Review. Griffin writes ". . . the anarchic individualism of the frontier is as outmoded as the prairie schooner. What has survived is not true rugged individualism, but its ugly residue -- the obsession with private over public goods."

STAGE

Thornton Wildersville

THOMAS SHALES

FROM the air, the Kennedy Center looks like a big box of donuts. It is taking shape --not rapidly, of course--as the ugliest building in Washington, and the competition for that title is rampant. Squatting foolishly on the waterfront, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is out of place, out of order, out of money now and then, and definitely out of IT. But what it is isn't quite so depressing as what it represents.

And what it represents is Culture, Washington-style. It is going to be Culture City USA, right? Thornton Wildersville--quaint old American comedies, dreary old concert pieces, morbidly traditional ballet. These are suspicions, admittedly, but there is certainly precedent. Only the promising start of the American Film Institute Theatre, with its intriguing six program opening series at the National Gallery, deters discouragement. One hopes the AFI can survive re-location to the mausoleum, if and when it ever opens.

Now one envisions the Center's repertoire: a long line of pretentious parties, with dress lengths and fabrics dutifully reported in the Washington Post and pert Pat Nixon rising to lead the ovation for, oh, Jose Iturbi--is he still alive? --or An Evening with Mantovani. Maybe the bright young comedy of Red Skelton.

Look, look: Pat's already in the culture bag. Just the other day a little squadron of reporters gathered in the east wing to hear of Pat's bold venture: A White House record library, with a commission of stuffy old "experts" (Willis Conover may be the single un-stuffy one, even though he makes his bread from Uncle Sam's propaganda machine: USIA) picking out a few thousand record albums to sit around the White House. Dick can listen to "classical" (The Warsaw Concerto, etc.) and David can teach everybody how to be-bop. We see the great interest in music by the First Family reflected in the words of a White House press release describing the playback equipment:

"Equipment will be contained in a cabinet constructed of natural cherry fruitwood veneers and solids. Door pulls are recessed and framed in tarnished brass. . . The equipment includes. . . a color television set."

It is convenient but unfair to blame the aw-

ful Nixons for the quality of kul-chur in our nation's capital, though. Washington is simply and long has been one of the un-hippest, slowest changing, dumbest witted, least innovative centers of half-lively art in the country. Very little happens here first, and we're lucky if it happens at all.

A guy who writes for the Quicksilver Times is always getting hung-up on the boorishness of the DC audience. I tell him he just has to ignore them, you're not supposed to review an audience, because the audience isn't the author's or the director's fault. To some extent, though, it is their fault, because after awhile they get to know what to expect from an audience and what an audience expects. So when "George M!" is booked into the National Theatre, you know why it is thought, correctly, that this miserable, counterfeit show will do well here. It will bring out the old folks, who are still so dominant in this town, and the Republicans, the Nixonians, who are tasteless by definition. That makes "George M!" not just wretched, but also patronizing, flailing its flags and feathers only to meet the pale demands of the out crowd.

Some people like to denounce the National itself as the camp villain of pop culture here, a symbol of corrupt bourgeois self-gratifications. Maybe they forget that The National was the first DC house to display a man's bare ass (in John Osborne's "A Patriot for Me"). Even that most revered of 4-letter words has turned up there; it was in "The Penny Wars" and a middle-aged couple behind me told each other, "This is too rough for us," and left at intermission. In these parts, folks think theatre is something to be-muse and tickle: it shouldn't grab out at you or remind you how fucking empty your life is (hey, that's the word!).

Maybe the same motives that brought us "George M!" were behind Circle-in-the-Square's decision to import Max Morath's revue "At the Turn of the Century," but at least this is an honest, earnest, no-pandering piece of Americana. Mr. Morath is a fine guide to the ragtime past; he appreciates its music as either the sincere expression of inner people or the synthetic opportunism of crafty composers, and he knows the differ-

ence. Happily he disappoints those in the audience who want a morality tale about how good the old days and how bad the new; he even suggests the obvious analogy between prohibition of booze and prohibition of pot as two perfect examples of institutionalized social hypocrisy.

It's disheartening to recall, though, that Ford's previous show, a roundly lauded production of "Iphigenia in Aulis," was a box-office disaster here, because Washingtonians avoid theatre unless it promises them laughs and a jolly time. That's what "The Wolves," a play by Robert Koesis, implies it will deliver at the Washington Theatre Club, but it doesn't and, worse, this contrived eavesdrop into a freaky East Village flat has all the depth and perspective of a tea-party tour-bus. On your right, ladies a genuine nymphomaniac and on your left, a squealing faggot. . . .

Sue Lawless, a very funny broad, almost saves that near-play with her deft portrait of an ultra-straight Connecticut housewife (whom the play-wright senselessly turns into a thief at the end of Act. 2).

Somewhat similarly, the Arena Stage production of "The Cherry Orchard" almost redeems the honor of the Establishment theatre in DC for the month. Chekhov is no rouser, and "Cherry Orchard" is a dry, dangerously delicate play that threatens to turn to ashes and blow away at any moment, but it never does thanks to Alfred Ryder's sensitive direction and a resoundingly ensemble effort by the Arena company. It's dressed up to be, well, 'pretty,' but not to the play's compromise, and one infers promise from the apparent: Arena is doing this play right now because it seems a challenge, not because a computer somewhere decided that this, on the basis of the past 20 years, is what an elitist aggregate of ritual theatre-goers might be willing to sit through. (The subscription plan, so popular here, tends to turn theatre into a listless, conformist ritual for some).

Elitism, alas, is what much of DC Culture is all about; the performing arts viewed as a mere adjunct to the anachronistic social whirl. Local press helps perpetuate this syndrome; we all know how much Kay Graham likes to read about whatever parties she did or didn't attend last night. Things are happening, though new theatre groups keep popping up valiantly, though none truly radical or revolutionary yet. It is there, though, that the promise lies; counter-culture in a different sense than the phrase usually connotes, maybe just the perfect noise to wake the sleeping elephant.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

city affairs

CITY COUNCIL

THE City Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

THE City Council will vote on the freeway plan on Feb. 17 at 7:30 p. m.

SCHOOL BOARD

THE School Board meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Info: ST3-6111.

HEARINGS

THERE will be hearings on March 24-25 in room 532 of the Federal Trade Commission, 6th & Penna. Ave. NW, on a rule to make it illegal for food stores to advertise specials without making sure they are available in stores. This proposed rule grew, in part, out of practices by chains in D. C.

RECREATION BD.

SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL NOTICE:

THE Community Recreation Advisory Board will hold its annual community meeting to consider requests for public recreation needs in connection with preparation of the 1972 budget.

There will be two meetings: Feb. 25 at 3:30 p. m. and Feb. 26 at 8 p. m., both at the Melvin C. Sharpe Health School, 13th and Upshur Sts., NW.

Only one representative from each organization may present requests and these presentations must be no longer than 3 minutes.

Requests should pertain only to items and projects which can be considered for possible inclusion in the Department's budget. Physical improvements to school properties should be referred to the Board of Education.

Names and addresses of representatives must be submitted by Feb. 20 to Howard Harris, 3149 16th, NW, 20010. Representatives should also send in a written request at least a week before the meeting.

Spokesmen will be heard by the order in which their names were received in the office. If representatives are unable to attend the meeting their written requests will be reviewed thoroughly by the Board.

To obtain the proper forms and for more information, contact Howard Harris at 629-7313.

MEETINGS

THE Democratic Central Committee meets Feb. 10 at its offices at 1009 13th NW at 8 p. m. The next meeting will be on Mar. 10 at 8 p. m. at the same location.

THE Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis, coordinator of the local anti-freeway struggle, meets every Thursday at Brookland Methodist Church, 14th & Lawrence NE.

TRIALS

THE Brookland Four trial begins Feb. 9 at the Court of General Sessions, 5th & E NW. Reginald Booker, Joseph Coleman, Rev. John Mote and Prof. Thomas Rooney were arrested on June 21 when citizens began an effort to clean up and restore to livable condition the 69 homes illegally confiscated by the DC government for the North Central Freeway.

CLASSES

THE Small Business Administration will hold a free workshop on "Keys to a Business Success" on Feb. 19 at 1405 I St. NW (Rm. 1210). The workshop is aimed at persons going into business for the first time. To attend: call 382-3345.

FEDERAL City College has started an income tax institute to aid people in filing their income tax returns. The classes are held on Thursdays from 7 to 9:30 p. m. and on Saturdays from 10 a. m. to noon at the Capitol East Community Organization, 1500 East Capitol St. Persons with gross annual incomes of less than \$9,000 interested in tax assistance should contact Dr. Andress Taylor, 628-2852, or Beth Berkeley or Linwood Chatman at 547-0630 or 547-1908.

MISC.

THE D. C. Commission on the Arts is accepting applications for financial grants in Fiscal Year 1971 through March 1. Those who wish to apply may write the commission at the Munsey Bldg., 1329 E NW, Room 543, 20004. Telephone: 629-5123 or 629-5124.

A TOTAL eclipse of the sun will pass along a path about 100 miles away from Washington on March 7. The effect of the eclipse will be to produce two minutes or so of near total darkness in Washington at about 1:35 p. m. This will be the first time in nearly 70 years that Washington will operate during workhours in the dark due to natural causes.

THERE will be a public hearing March 18 on the proposed realignment of a portion of mid-city Metro route.

The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers at the District Building, beginning at 8 p. m. Persons wishing to testify must notify the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (484-2631) by March 13.

Effect of the proposed revision would be to divert the subway north under 7th Street, west beneath U Street and north again under 14th Street. The change would also add stations serving Federal City College and the Shaw Area.

Both the original and proposed revised routings

the arts

WHO	WHEN	WHERE	INFO
-----	------	-------	------

STAGE

MAN FROM LA MANCHA	thru Feb. 28	National Theater	
THE CHERRY ORCHARD		Arena Stage	638-6700
MAX MORATH	thru Feb. 15	Ford's Theatre	347-6260
THE WOLVES	thru Feb. 15	Wash. Theatre Club	265-4700
BEN BAGLEY'S DECLINE & FALL		Wash. Theatre Club	265-4700
MARCEL MARCEAU	Feb. 20-22	Constitution Hall	393-4433
THE LESSON & LOVERS	Feb. 9-11	St. Matthews Court	EX 3-5818
ADVENTURES IN THE SKIN TRADE	Opens Feb. 25	Wash. Theatre Club	265-4700
SONGS FROM MILK WOOD	Feb. 12	Gallaudet College	386-6406

(Production by National Theatre of the Deaf)

MUSIC

LOU RAWLS	Feb. 14	Constitution Hall	NA 8-7332
THE OPEN WINDOW	Feb. 21	" " "	" " "
DAVID OISTRAKH	Feb. 17-18	" " "	" " "
ANTAL DORATI & THE STOCKHOLM PHILHARMONIC	Feb. 22	" " "	" " "
OSCAR GHIGLIA	Feb. 13	Lisner Audit.	393-4433
CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA	Feb. 15	Constitution Hall	" " "
NEW YORK PRO MUSICA	Feb. 28	Lisner Audit.	" " "
SOLISTI VENETI	Feb. 21	Constitution Hall	" " "
MAHMUD MIRZA	Feb. 15	Lisner Audit.	NA 8-5575
NEW YORK CHAMBER SOLOISTS	Feb. 13	Library of Congress	393-4463
JEAN-PIERRE RAMPAL, FLUTE, & ROBERT VEYRON-LACROIX, HARPSICHORD & PIANO	Feb. 20	" " "	" " "
PHILADELPHIA STRING QUARTET	Feb. 27	" " "	" " "

NIGHTCLUBS

GARY BURTON	Feb. 9-14	Cellar Door	337-3389
MODERN JAZZ QUARTET	Feb. 16-21	" " "	" " "
CHARLIE BYRD	Feb. 23-March 7	" " "	" " "
LANA CANTRELL	Feb. 17-21	Shoreham	
JOHNNY MATHIS	Feb. 24-28	" " "	
ZOOT SIMS	thru Feb. 14	Blues Alley	
JIMMY MCPARTLAND	Feb. 16-28	" " "	
CLINT HOLMES	Feb. 12-21	I'm Tony	
ETCETERA V		Mr. Henry's G'town	337-4334

WHAT'S HAPPENING

would be completely underground. Cost of the suggested change is estimated at \$2.8 million, to be financed by the D. C. government.

WASHINGTON Women's Liberation will hold women's hearings on the Pill on Saturday, Feb. 28. Women experts and users from Washington and around the country will testify on their knowledge and experience with the Pill and other forms of contraception.

The hearings were called after a number of women active in Washington Women's Liberation concluded that Senator Nelson's hearings were not candidly and fully exploring the right issues about the Pill. Among the central problems which the women feel Nelson has ignored and which they intend to explore are:

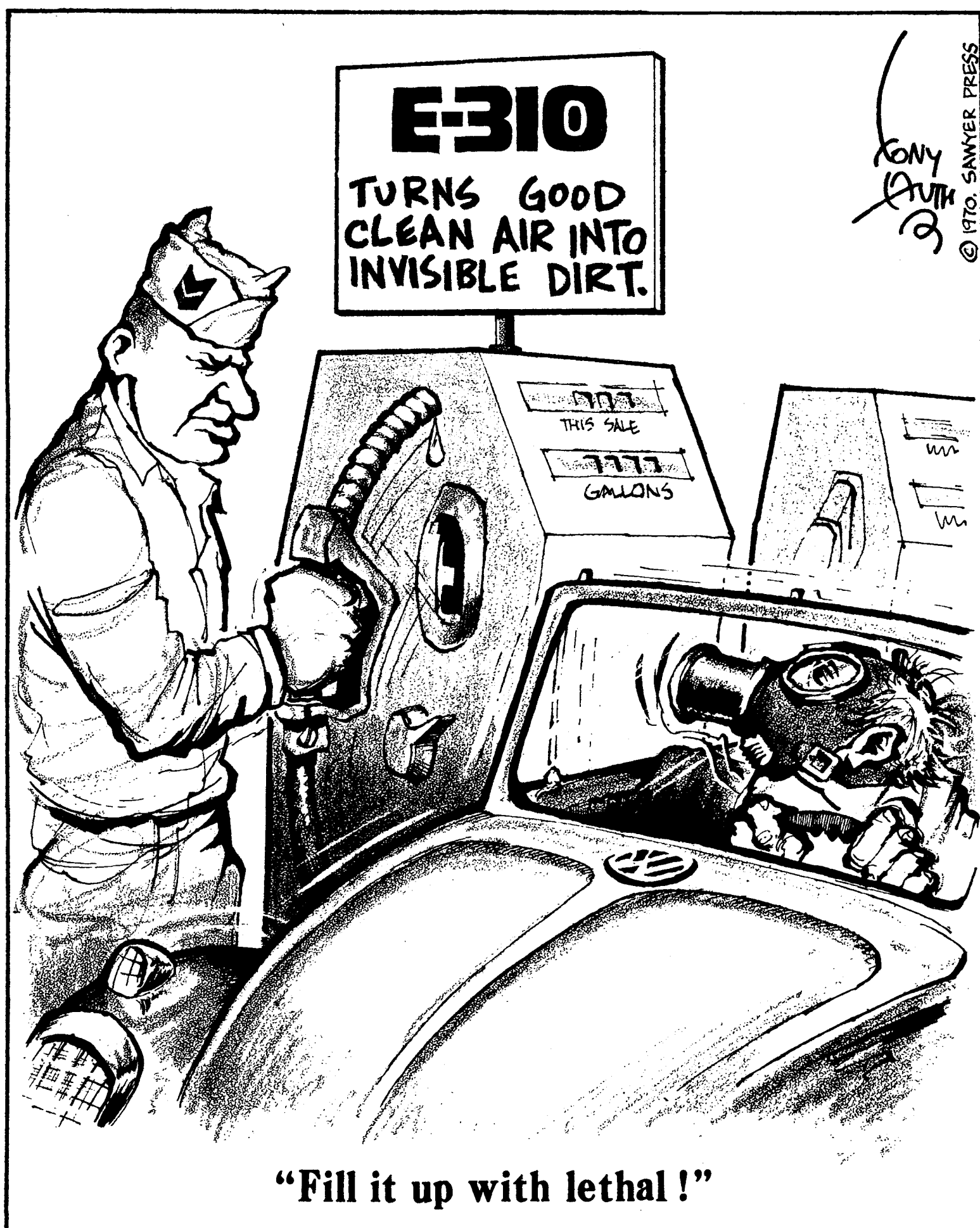
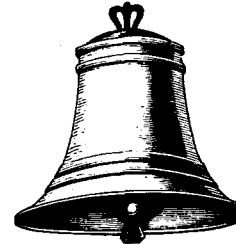
- What are the problems and side effects experienced by women?

- Do women feel that there has been "informed consent" in their choice of the Pill?
- What are women's experiences with other forms of contraception and with abortions?
- Why is there no male Pill?
- Why are health care and contraception profit-making industries rather than free public services?
- Why are drug companies deliberately suppressing information on the Pill?

Women's Liberation asks women who have had experience with the Pill to write them about it if they aren't testifying. This information is being assembled in order to prepare legal cases against doctors who did not properly inform women of the risks they were taking in using oral contraceptives.

For more information contact D. C. Women's Liberation, 232-5145 or write P. O. Box 13098, T Street Station, Washington, D. C. 20009.

AMERICAN Documentary Films has a series of films on Vietnam and Chicago for sale or rent. For example, there's a 15 minute film called "Yippie!" (Jerry Rubin joined in the editing) that rents for \$20. Other rentals are up to \$125 (for Felix Greene's "Inside North Vietnam.") For catalog and information write American Documentary Films, 336 West 84th St., New York, N. Y. 10024 or call 212-799-7440.



Subscription blank

THE GAZETTE
109 8th St. NE
Washington DC 20002

Please send me a year's subscription to the D. C. Gazette.
I enclose check or money order in the amount of five dollars.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Zip.....

Or call us at 543-5850 and we'll bill you.

NW
SW

COMMUNITY

NE
SE

SPANISH-SPEAKING WASHINGTON

Problems of Hispanic DC
get a once-over lightly

MALCOLM KOVACS

FOR months Hispanic community activists like Carlos Rosario have been trying to persuade city and Federal officials to look into and actively help the large Spanish-speaking community in the Washington area. Numbering probably about 60,000 non-persons (they will be counted in a separate category for the first time in the 1970 census), they are congregated largely in Northwest Washington, especially in Adams-Morgan, Mt. Pleasant, Columbia Heights and Cardozo. There are several thousands more -- usually the more affluent -- in the Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs. Most have come from Mexico or Latin America and many are not citizens.

Rosario and others met with City Council Chairman Gilbert Hahn several months ago to get help. Hahn indicated that he would probably hold hearings in the spring. It took a blast from the Senate's only Senator of Spanish descent, New Mexico's Joseph Montoya, to prod the D. C. government to at least fake some concern. The results: Walter Washington ordered language training for a dozen Anglo police (although the Spanish community leaders had wanted active recruitment of policemen from their own communities). And Gilbert Hahn generously passed the gavel to Councilman Rev. Jerry Moore to preside over a hearing on the local Spanish-speaking community.

The evening hearing on January 27th not only turned out all nine Council members but a standing room only crowd of almost 300, mostly from the Spanish-speaking community. They filled every seat in the Council chambers, lined both sides of the room, and some listened in the hall over a loudspeaker. Some 50 witnesses had indicated they wanted to testify.

The testimony began with a challenge from Martin Castillo, chairman of Nixon's new Cabinet Committee on Opportunity for the Spanish-Speaking, who wondered out loud whether a largely black City Council would do as much for the Spanish minority as for the black majority. While Castillo raised a good question, he ignored the fact that the Council seems unable and unlikely to do much for either group.

Statements of concern were read to the meeting by aides of Senators Kennedy, Montoya and Fred Harris, detailing the discrimination and impoverishment of the Spanish-speaking community. Then began the presentations, mostly from Spanish-speaking church, community, youth and political groups. Beyond detailing the conditions of this colony within a colony, most proposals focused on creation of more bi-lingual education programs (an estimated 50% don't speak English) and of a new Spanish-Speaking Affairs Unit in the Commissioner's office. The case for this proposed new office was well made by Rosario and young Hector Rodriguez. The office would consist of fluent bi-lingual personnel to aid the Spanish-speaking community in such basic areas as housing, education, health, youth and "public safety."

The questions and comments from Council members revealed that they misunderstood the

problem as being mainly one of language difficulties: start some more bi-lingual training programs and get some Anglo police speaking broken-Berlitz Spanish and the problems will be largely solved. It was Sterling Tucker who, while acknowledging half-jokingly that he was seeking applause, said that it was important for a minority culture like this to preserve its identity and not be integrated away into the dominant Anglo world. Tucker was getting at an often-ignored basic point: this community should be assisted without having to pay the price which American blacks have already paid while getting few benefits in return.

What kind of results can we realistically expect from the Council and the Commissioner? The tone and substance of the Council members' remarks indicated that they were unlikely to take any special interest in fighting for the Spanish-speaking affairs unit.

Moreover, the Council seemed satisfied by Walter Washington's weak gesture of language training for some Anglo policemen. There are now probably not more than 20 policemen of Spanish background and few of them are assigned to their own communities, according to one of the few Spanish-speaking policemen on the force. Several Spanish leaders said there is a need for Walter Washington and Jerry Wilson to actively seek out Spanish-speaking candidates and to return them to work in their own communities. This will probably require special English language training to be given to Spanish-speaking applicants to help them through the culturally-biased exams.

Another discouraging sign was the dispassionate and disinterested behavior of the "Mayor's man" for working with the Spanish-speaking community, Phil Rutledge, the very highly paid special assistant for human resources. Rutledge was asked weeks ago by Senator Montoya to furnish him with basic data on the Spanish-speaking community here. Rutledge responded that he couldn't get such information. Rutledge had a chance at the hearing to get some of that information and a feeling for the community's problems. Rutledge stood by the back door of the council chamber through the first three witnesses, without pen or paper, nonchalantly smoking his pipe. He then abruptly left the hearing and was not seen again.

Several of the Spanish-speaking witnesses at the hearing seemed to sense this basic disinterest -- or half-hearted interest -- in them. They expressed their intention to go back to their Congressional friends for help if need be. The Spanish-speaking people at the hearings were largely educated middle class professionals who are trying politely and hard to make the system respond to their needs. It seems likely that their moderate requests will not be met by the Commissioner, the City Council or Congress.

Among the conclusions one might draw from all this is that you don't have to be white to be indiffer-

(Please turn to page 15)

COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

Community theater

DAY OF ABSENCE and JOHNNAS. Back Alley Theatre, 1365 Kennedy NW, on Thurs., Fri. & Sat. through Feb. 15. 8:30 p. m. Admission: \$3. Info: 723-2040.

CACTUS FLOWER, Falls Church Community Theater, George Mason Civic Auditorium, Broad St. (Rt. 7) and Haycock Rd., Falls Church, Va., Feb. 20, 21, 27 and 28, 8:30 p. m. Info: 532-8744.

TOYS IN THE ATTIC, Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria, Feb. 20 - March 7 (Mon. dark), 8:30 p. m. Matinees Feb. 22 and March 1, 3 p. m. Info: 683-0496.

U. S. A. Fairlington Players, Fairlington Elementary School, S. Stafford Rd., Fairlington, Feb. 27, 28 and March 5, 6, 7, 8:30 p. m., Info: 968-7658.

LUV, Vienna-Oakton Hamsters, Vienna Community Center, Park & Cherry Sts., Feb. 21, 22, 27 and 28, 8:30 p. m.

HARVEY, Fairfax Community Theatre, Room 306, Fairfax City Hall, Feb. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 8:30 p. m. Info: 280-1909.

OF MICE AND MEN, Chevy Chase Players, Wesley United Methodist Church, between Jennifer and Jocelyn on Conn. Ave., Feb. 20, 21, 22, 26, 27 and 28 at 8:30 p. m. Info: 362-4399 or OL 6-3643.

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLFE Arlington Players, Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, Walter Reed Dr., Arlington, Va. Feb. 27 and 28 and March 7 and 8, 8 p. m. Matinee, March 1, 2:30 p. m. Info: 527-7211 or 524-7694.

THE HOUSE OF ATREUS STONE, Catholic University Theatre, 4th & Mich. NE. (Mondays dark). 529-6000, ext. 358.

Music

HARPSICORDIST Maria Stoesser will be guest soloist for the Baroque Arts Chamber Orchestra's free concert at 8:15 p. m. Feb. 24 at Jefferson Junior High School auditorium, 8th and H Sts., SW.

The orchestra, under the direction of William Radford-Bennett, will perform music by Handel, Bach and Mozart.

THE Choral Arts Society of Washington presents "An Evening of Italian Music," featuring the music of Monteverdi and Dallapiccola, on Feb. 22 at 8 p. m. at the National Presbyterian Church, Nebraska Ave. at Van Ness NW. Tickets range from \$3 to \$5.50 and are available at the Talbert Ticket Agency, Sears and AAA. Phone reservations: 652-6987.

THE GAZETTE is interested in receiving interpretive articles on Washington's various neighborhoods. For more information contact the Gazette at 543-5850.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sports

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

(All games start at 3:30 p. m.)

Feb. 10: Chamberlain at Eastern, Phelps at Anacostia, McKinley at Ballou, Cardozo at Roosevelt, and Coolidge vs. Dunbar at McKinley.

Feb. 11: Wilson vs. Cardozo at Roosevelt, Coolidge vs. Western at McKinley.

Feb. 13: Anacostia at Eastern, Spingarn at McKinley, Chamberlain at Ballou, Dunbar vs. Bell at Lincoln Jr. High, Coolidge vs. Cardozo at Roosevelt.

Feb. 14: Cardozo at Booker T. Washington (Norfolk).

Feb. 17: Anacostia at Ballou, Bell vs. Western at McKinley, Wilson at Roosevelt, Cardozo at Armstrong (Richmond).

Feb. 18: St. Anthony's at McKinley.

Feb. 20: McKinley vs. Chamberlain at Eastern, Spingarn at Anacostia, Ballou vs. Phelps at Spingarn, Coolidge vs. Wilson at American U., Bell vs. Cardozo at Roosevelt, Western vs. Dunbar at McKinley.

Feb. 24: McKinley at Anacostia, Phelps at Spingarn, Ballou at Eastern, Western vs. Wilson at Roosevelt, Dunbar vs. Cardozo at McKinley, Roosevelt vs. Bell at Lincoln Jr. High.

Feb. 25: Bell vs. Wilson at Roosevelt, Roosevelt vs. Coolidge at McKinley.

Feb. 26: Cardozo vs. Western at Roosevelt.

Feb. 27: Chamberlain at Anacostia, McKinley vs. Phelps at Spingarn, Spingarn at Eastern, Dunbar vs. Wilson at Roosevelt, Roosevelt vs. Western at McKinley.

Ward One

LIBRARIES

THE Mt. Pleasant Library, 16th & Lamont NW, will show two films for adults on Feb. 9 at 4 p. m.: "Fun Factory" (Footage of some of the classic slapstick films of the silent movie era) and "The Dropout" (The hidden causes of dropouts and some possible remedies).

Ward Two

LIBRARIES

The SW Library holds a weekly "Picture Book Time" for children 3 and 4 years old at the Pink Room, 203 N SW, from 2 to 2:30 p. m. on Mondays.

The SW Library, Wesley Place and K SW, shows movies for children each Friday at 4 p. m. and each Saturday at 2 p. m.

The SW Library holds a weekly "Picture Book Time" for children 3 and 4 years old at 1245-A Carrolsbury Place, SW, from 2 to 2:30 p. m. on Wednesdays.

Ward Three

LIBRARIES

THE Tenley-Friendship Branch Library, Wisc. & Albermarle NW, shows free films on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p. m. Upcoming schedule:

Feb. 11: "Road Signs on a Merry-go-round." (An essay interpreting the thought of Buber, Bonhoeffer and deChardin.) "I Went to the Woods."

(A quotation from Thoreau introduces a film study of the four seasons in woodland areas.)

Feb. 18: "American Music: From Folk to Jazz to Pop." "Invitation to Music." (The preparations for the Florence Music Festival).

Feb. 25: "White Mane." (The story of a boy and a wild horse set in the Camargue district of southern France. An international award winner.) "Fun Factory." (Footage of some of the classic slapstick films of the silent movie era.)

The Tenley-Friendship Branch Library, Wisc. & Albermarle NW, will show movies for children on Feb. 27 at 3:30 p. m.

RECREATION

THE Master Emeritus I. S. Turover Chess Tournament will be held at 7:30 p. m. Feb. 13 at the Guy Mason Recreation Center, Wisc. and Calvert, NW.

There is a \$3 fee for the five-round tournament. Information: Vincent Guerra at 629-2525.

SEMINAR

SEMINAR ON DRUGS. "The Abuser, Why Does He Do It?" Dr. Louise G. Richards, Bureau of Narcotics. Feb. 27, 1 p. m. at the Guy Mason Recreation Center, Wisc. and Calvert NW. Sponsored by DC Recreation and Park Society.

Ward Five

LIBRARIES

THE Woodridge Library, 18th & RI Aves. NE, has special children's programs on Tuesdays at 4 p. m.

Ward Six

POLITICAL MEETING

PRECINCT 89 Democrats will hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 8 p. m. at Friendship House. Precinct captain Marilyn Nejelske urges all interested Democrats to attend and hear Ward Six School Board member Martha Swaim summarize the status of current education problems in the ward.

RELIGION

FOLK Communion services will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 222 M SW, on Feb. 8 and at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 4th NW, on Feb. 22. Both services begin at 4:30 p. m.

LIBRARIES

THE popular television program for children "Sesame Street" can be viewed at the NE Library, 7th & Md. NE, Monday through Friday at 9 a. m.

The NE Library, 7th & Md. NE, will show children's movies on Feb. 14 and 28 at 2 p. m.

The Junior Citizens Corps will present a feature length film on boxing at the NE Library, 7th & Md. NE, on Feb. 11 at 4 p. m. "The Weapons of Gordon Parks", biography of the author, composer and

photographer for Life Magazine will also be shown. Free.

Movies for children will be shown at the SE Library, 7th & D SE, on Feb. 19 and March 5 at 4 p. m.

MEETINGS

ALL the public school building projects proposed for Ward Six for the next three years will be discussed at a public meeting on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p. m. at Eastern High School, 17th & E. Capitol.

THE Friendship House Education Committee is looking for members and holds its next meeting on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p. m. in the Friendship House auditorium, 619 D SE.

THE Capitol East Community Organization's Delegate Assembly meets Feb. 24 at Holy Comforter School, 15th & East Capitol, 7:30 p. m.

THE Capitol Hill Action Group meets Feb. 15 and March 1 at St. Mark's Church, 3rd & A SE, at 8 p. m.

Ward Seven

LIBRARIES

THE Ft. Davis Library, 37th & Alabama SE, will present a Negro History Week film program on Feb. 10 at 3:15 p. m. and 4:15 p. m.

Ward Eight

SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS PROGRAM

THE Varney Street Community Health Clinic is enrolling persons in the supplemental foods program. This food is available even if the individual does not qualify for food stamps. Anyone living in the Congress Heights area wishing more information may call 562-5200 or 562-5201.

Send your
calendar listings
to the Gazette,
109 8th St. NE

THE Community Calendar is available for announcements of forthcoming community events. Civic and political organizations, action groups, churches and government agencies, and amateur organizations of all kinds are invited to submit listings. Send to the Gazette at 109 8th St. NE or call us at 543-5880 day or night. The boundaries of the various wards are indicated below:

WARD ONE: NW Washington east of Rock Creek Park, south of Mt. Pleasant and north of S St., including Adams-Morgan and Columbia Hts.

WARD TWO: SW Washington and NW Washington from S St. south and east of Rock Creek Park, including Shaw, Dupont Circle and downtown.

WARD THREE: NW Washington west of Rock Creek Park from Chevy Chase to Georgetown and Foggy Bottom, including Cleveland Park, Foxhall and Potomac Palisades.

WARD FOUR: NW Washington east of Rock Creek Park from Mt. Pleasant to the District line, including Takoma Park, Brightwood and Petworth.

WARD FIVE: NE Washington west of the Anacostia from Fla. Ave. and Benning Rd. to the District line, including Trinidad, Brookland, Ft. Lincoln and Woodbridge.

WARD SIX: NEAR NE and Near SE Washington from Fla. Ave. and Benning Rd. south to the Anacostia, comprising Capitol East and including Capitol Hill and Stanton Park

WARD SEVEN: NE & SE Washington north of Anacostia and Naylor Gardens and east of the Anacostia River, including Randle Highlands, Benning Hts., and Kenilworth.

WARD EIGHT: SE Washington east of the Anacostia from Anacostia south, including Barry Farms, Congress Hts. and Washington Highlands.

Community

COMMUNITY THEATRE

Back Alley has good one

SALLY CROWELL

EVEN though the theatre's public funeral continues on Broadway, and in many other commercial houses as well, the theatre may not be actually dead, but rather merely hiding. I've been looking, and although I've only begun to uncover the many underplayed playhouses that are tucked away in the city's alleys, basements and parish halls, it's clear that community theatre in Washington is very much alive and in some instances it's vibrant.

THE newly completed George Washington University Center Theatre will open on Feb. 17 with the world premiere of a new musical play, "Do You Know Where Your Children Are?" by Cary Engleberg and Lewis Black. Performances will take place in the new 385 seat thrust stage theatre at 21st and I, NW, through Feb. 21 at 8:30 p. m. (and at 2:30 p. m. on Saturday, Feb. 21).

The play concerns a group of college students who return home for the summer and the events of that summer which change their relationships and their lives. It will be directed by David H. Kieserman of the G. W. Drama faculty; and designed by Nathan C. Garner, also of the faculty. The new Center Theatre will feature a highly sophisticated light control board, a flexible thrust stage, rehearsal spaces for all performing arts, etc. Tickets are available at the University Players Box Office and at each performance. For additional ticket information and reservations, telephone 676-7079 daily between 10 a. m. and 5 p. m.

One such theatre is Back Alley, whose bill of two "black experience" plays will continue to run through the weekend of Feb. 14. This young, enthusiastic group has, after two years of shifting sets from one section of the city to another, finally settled into a pleasant intimate theatre in the basement of a corner cleaners on Kennedy Street. Producer Naomi Efti has worked hard and long to mold her effective and racially integrated company into a "model" community theatre, and their current presentation of "The Day of Absense" by Douglas T. Ward shows that the group can deliver.

Mr. Ward, the Artistic Director of the Negro Ensemble Company in New York, has put together a tightly knit one-acter that satirizes the situation created by a southern town one day waking up and realizing that there will be no one to take care of the children, pick up the trash, sweep the streets etc., because during the night all of the 'Negras' in the town had mysteriously disappeared. Of course, this leaves everybody very upset, especially the mayor (played by Ralph Cooper) who, after searching everywhere finally goes on national T. V. and pleads, "... come back, all of you. Even you questionable ones... you know you're better off under our control." When he still receives no response he then considers appealing to the NAACP and the neighboring states to see if they might "lend us some Negras on credit."

This biting comedy ably directed by Mary Lincer Hauptman moves along with the tempo of a slick musical revue, yet one is repeatedly struck in the middle of a laugh with the depth and sadness, even blackness of the humor. The predominantly black cast, made up in clown white and costumed in red, white and blue, contributed to the absurdity of the situation. The refrain of 'Dixie' coming through during the scene changes added the final touch to

a well conceived production. Compliments to Melvin Moore who seems to have a feel for satire. He believed in the reality of his characters and he came through beautifully.

The second play of the evening, on the other hand, did not come through so well. "Johnnas" by Bill Gunn is a fine piece of introspective literature, but it doesn't make it successfully as a play. It's unfortunate because he has written some lovely poetic passages and we are moved by his characters; however, due to a form which leans heavily on exposition, there is little sensation of movement and an absence of interaction between characters. This seems to be the kind of play that "reads" well, but doesn't hold up as well when played. Stephen Byrd is well cast as Johnnas, as is Charles Shaw as his father.

Another play that will be running through the week ending Feb. 14 is "The House of Atreus Stone," a new play by Francis X. Kelly and presented at Catholic University. It's like jumping into a completely different bag. At Catholic the emphasis is "professionalism" and standards. "As one walks into the brick church-like theatre, one notes the permanence of the structure. On the raked stage sits a set depicting a "library" and one is impressed with the quality of the workmanship and design. From the moment the actors enter the stage, one is struck by the impeccable costumes (except for the father's wig, which is unfortunate), and their studied use of props. Then they need only speak. To be sure, at Catholic University there are still two t's in "little." Technique is "in" at Catholic, and while all four actors were well cast in their respective roles, it will be interesting to see if this well maintained technique serves them in a variety of characters.

Mr. Kelly has without a doubt constructed a well-made three act play in the tradition of O'Neil and Ibsen. He ends each act with a note of suspense, complete with modern Cage-like music, and there are emotional peaks that leave your nerve endings vibrating along with the strident chords on the piano. The plot becomes so much more complex with each scene. When you finally witness the horrible ending it is all so predictable that you're relieved it's over and done with so you can breathe easy again. The playwright does reveal some unfortunate truths concerning the relationships between father/son, mother/son, husband/wife, but somewhere along the line it becomes very heavy and cumbersome. Nonetheless, some people like this kind of theatre and it's good that Catholic has provided a show case for it, if you like a job well done, you'll probably enjoy "The House of Atreus Stone."

SPANISH

from page 13

ent to the plight of a minority culture in America. Negro will do.

As their requests go unmet and disillusionment grows, we can expect the growth here of more activist and militant Spanish-speaking persons. Such a development may be similar to the Mexican-American Youth Organization (MAYO) in the Southwest and La Raza. It is probably not going to be very long before the Chicano movements of the West will catch on here. The unresponsive public officials of this city and Congress will make this development inevitable.

Classified Ads

RATES: Short public service-type announcements published free of charge. Other classified: 5¢ a word, \$1 minimum. Mail to the Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, Washington DC 20002.

WANTED

WANTED: used ladies' bicycle, full-size, lightweight with gears. 333-7399.

VOLUNTEERS

FRIENDSHIP House needs at least twenty more tutors. Four or five families call each week and we are unable to help them. If you can spare a few hours in the afternoon, you might be able to help a child get a better grasp of the English language. Most of the children who need help are between 8 and 12. Contact Friendship House, 619 D SE, 547-8880.

THE Environmental Teach-In needs volunteers. Contact Kent Conrad at 293-6960.

JOBS AVAILABLE

The Capitol East Housing Council is seeking an individual over 25 years old for the position of director. The duties shall include providing staff assistance to the Council and the non-profit Capitol East Housing Fund, supervising projects and the packaging of houses in Capitol East for resale to lower-income families under the 1968 Housing Act.

No experience is required, but the individual should have some administrative background and experience in real estate, bookkeeping, law or community organization. Residence in the Capitol East area is preferred but not required. Salary: Between \$8,000 and \$12,000 depending on background.

Send resume to: Capitol East Housing Council
Capitol East Housing Council, Director
729 8th Street, SE
Washington, D. C. 20003

Try a
classified
ad
in the
Gazette

U.S.

SINCE the National Capital Housing Authority is in such dire financial straits, why are there more than 20 vacant units in both Harvard Towers and Regency House? The rental of those units would provide needed housing and return at least \$1,000 per month to the authority.

FROM A WTOP editorial attacking the Montgomery County Northern Freeway: "Either we stop tearing up the cities to appease the motor car or the cities eventually won't be worth living in."

FREWAY foes Reginald Booker and Dennis Livingston have been put on probation by Chief Judge Greene of the General Sessions Court. They were convicted in a case that grew out of last summer's tumultuous City Council freeway hearing. Judge Greene declined to send the men to jail because he said their conduct was "not so much different" from that of 12 others who were arrested the same day but whose charges were reduced or dropped.

THE local police department has opened another "Police Community Relations Information Center." The most basic piece of information is given on the sign outside the building. It shows a black and white hand in a clasp. The white hand extends from a policeman's uniform.

FEDERAL courts have subpoenaed the files and pictures of Time, Life and Newsweek as the government builds its case against the Weathermen. The New York Times reports "growing concern among newspaper editors and television network news executives about what they believe to be an increasing effort by the authorities to collect intelligence about radical movements from the news media."

ADAM Clayton Powell has introduced a bill that would rename Meridian Hill Park. New name: Malcolm X Park.

THE Senate has approved legislation that would permit federal cops to make no-warning narcotics raids after getting court approval. Senator Sam Ervin says the no-knock provision is unconstitutional. Sen. Dodd says that "Society has the right to break in" and told his fellow senators "If I thought for a minute that this would mean the smashing in of my door. . . or yours, I wouldn't be up here defending it."

WILLIAM Lloyd Garrison had some thoughts on moderation in 1831: "Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen."

INDIGENTS involved in General Sessions Court civil cases can now get free transcripts of proceedings if they have substantial issues to appeal, says the U. S. Court of Appeals.

THE American Civil Liberties Union Fund has filed a major test suit in U. S. District Court challenging three laws under which police are allowed to detain and question suspects:

1) Stop and frisk procedures, abused by police who stop and search citizens without reasonable grounds.

2) Title III of the 1967 Omnibus Crime Act, which permits detention and questioning of suspects up to three hours without bringing them before a magistrate.

3) Title II of the 1968 Safe Streets and Crime Control Act which authorizes questioning suspects for up to six hours without bringing them before a magistrate.

The ACLU Fund is representing Charles D. Long, a government employee who was detained, questioned, searched and released in front of a jewelry store last February. The suit states that there was no reason whatsoever to stop and question Long, and that this kind of abuse of police powers is authorized by stop and frisk practices which do not conform to the stop and frisk procedures approved by the Supreme Court.

THE City Council will hold public hearings Feb. 19 and 20 on the budget.

The sessions are at 10 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. on both days in the Council chamber. Extra public hearings may also be held on Feb. 23, 24 and 25 if needed.

The Council will hear city officials discuss the budget on Feb. 10 - 18. These sessions will be open to the public, also.

Tell your friends about the Gazette

KOVACS

from page 7

special offices down the hall from Commissioner Washington's Dr. Srangetlove command center. Fourteen walkie-talkie connections were set up and six telephones were installed, including direct lines to the semi-abandoned Willard Hotel, New Mobe offices, and the stage at the Washington Monument grounds.

This working relationship began when Blumenthal and Moratorium leader Sam Brown agreed to cooperate on arrangements for portable toilets. According to Look's Washington Bureau Chief Warren Rogers, this contact was "to grow into an anti-violence liaison among the under-thirties. . . ." The result was that "the Mayor and the Mobe leaders could be in touch with one another on an instantaneous basis." The article briefly chronicles instances of close coopera-

tion between the Administration and the Mobe to "avoid trouble."

From all this the article draws conclusions directly contrary to what is suggested by its own facts: "The Mobe representatives at the Municipal Building could not afford to be considered agents of Mayor Washington or the White House." But that was just the role they played. Look further misses the mark by concluding that "neither side sacrificed integrity. . . this is still one nation."

One can only guess how many people would not have participated in the March Against Death and the march on Saturday if they had known that the New Mobe had agreed to act as troubleshooters for Nixon so that he could enjoy his football game without being disturbed.

SIEGEL

from page 4

fashion becomes strange and disturbing. Paradoxically, this awful movie suggests a viable formal answer to the problem of integrating complex political problems and movies. Because we are not driven, or even asked, to identify with any of the characters, because each representative of each power bloc is equally colorless and acts without the slightest trace of personal responsibility or involvement, we are released from the basic satisfactions of empathy and suspense and thereby freed to speculate upon the ethics of the issues involved. It is at this point that Hitchcock fails for he has spent too many years making wonderfully entertaining and totally empty movies and lacks the intellectual and political

equipment necessary to fill the vacuum at the center of "Topaz."

It is ironic that Costa-Gavras, in "Z," has made a thoroughly engrossing movie which, because of its melodramatic nature, cannot deal more than superficially with the political issues that the director very much wants to get across to his audience. Hitchcock has, on the other hand, blundered through his own carelessness into a politically valid, neo-Brechtian style, the kind of cool, objective, formal structure that could capably frame the most intricate kinds of political inquiry. Yet, because he has no real interest in politics, his film is as hollow and as nourishing as a gourd.

THE D.C. GAZETTE

109 - 8th Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

543-5850

The D. C. Gazette is published bi-weekly (23 times a year) by the Capitol East Gazette.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Sam Smith
Editor's Wife: Kathy Smith
Associate Editor: Erbin Crowell
Photo Editor: Roland L. Freeman
Contributing Editors: Marica Feldman, Malcolm Kovacs, Thomas Shales, Joel Siegel
Community Arts Critic: Sally Crowell
Office Manager: Pat Gates
Editorial Assistant: Joseph Tolliver

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The D. C. Gazette is available by mail at \$5 a year. Single copies: 25¢ each. Ten or more copies: 15¢ each. Twenty-five or more copies: 10¢ each. The D. C. Gazette is available in combination with the Capitol East Gazette for \$6 a year.

ARTICLES

The D. C. Gazette welcomes letters and articles. Manuscripts will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope.

AD RATES

Commercial rate: \$2 an inch, \$75 a page, \$40 a half page, \$30 a third-page.

Rate for political and civic organizations, churches and non-profit groups: \$1 an inch, \$45 a page, \$15 a third page.

Classified advertising: 5¢ a word. \$1 minimum.